

Life Interrupted - Week 1

Sometimes truth kicks the door down - Jim Burgen

March 27, 2022

Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation--encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

// Bible References

John 8:2-11, 10:10, 14:6.

// Message Summary

This week we began a new series titled *Life Interrupted*. Pastor Jim opened with the idea that ‘One small truth can change your life forever’ and raised the question, ‘How does God teach us that His truth really is true, that it is a better way, and that it leads to a better life?’ God’s truth never changes, but because different people learn differently, God’s truth delivery methods can vary. In John’s gospel, we read the story of a woman caught in the act of adultery, brought to Jesus for a decision on her punishment. Jesus delivered her truth - you need to leave this life that you have been living - and delivered it in a way to make her finally pay attention.

// Biblical and Historical Context

John, beautifully noted as “the disciple whom Jesus loved” (John 21:7), wrote his letter to the church around 90 AD, which makes this the last of the four gospels written. In just 9 short verses of chapter 8, John recalls a tale stunning in its brevity, but majestic in its significance. The woman brought before Jesus had been caught in the act of adultery, and the penalty according to Jewish Law was death by stoning. The original Greek language communicates that the men bringing her before the crowd were confident in their evidence, and knew the volatile chain of events they were potentially setting in motion for the woman. But by bringing her to Jesus publicly, rather than seeking a private conversation, it is clear that this was merely an opportunistic means to an end for them. Their interest in her sin and doing the “right thing” was just a show: they wanted to back Jesus into a corner. If they could get him to uphold the Jewish Law and permit her execution, the people would see His lack of compassion and mercy. If He demanded her release, the people would see that He disregarded the law that they held so highly. In His infinite wisdom and boundless mercy, Jesus upended the whole event: He sustained the tenets of the law, *and* He set the woman free.

// Community Questions

1. What is a television show or movie that you love, but you don't like to admit it in front of other people?
2. In your daily life, do you lean more towards "rules are rules", or "rules are meant to be broken"?

// Discussion Questions

1. As a group, read John 8:2-11. What seems interesting to you?
2. How did Jesus respond to the woman's predicament?
3. Jim said, "Sometimes, the way that God delivers truth is that He allows (or causes) truth to kick the door in and we get caught in our untruth."

Do you agree with this observation? Why or why not?

4. God cares for us too much to be ok with us continuing to let sin damage our lives and relationships. Think about one area of your life where God has been quietly (or loudly) telling you, "Go and sin no more."

What would the impact be on your life if you could do this? What would be the impact on those you love if you did this? If you are comfortable doing so, please share.

5. In his meeting with the woman and her accusers, Jesus simultaneously upheld the importance of God's holy law, and the importance of mercy. What does this tell you about God's character?

// Challenge

It is very likely that there is an area of your life that disagrees with God's truth, and you know it. In these cases, we have two options: do nothing and hope God's truth doesn't catch up with us (but it will), or ask God for forgiveness, and ask the Spirit for the strength and wisdom to walk in truth towards whatever Jesus tells us to do next.

Our challenge this week is for each of us to take option two.