

Where Do We Go From Here? - Week 3

GROW UP TO GO OUT

John 8:2-11 (NKJV)—Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them. 3 Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, 4 they said to Him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. 5 Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?” 6 This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear. 7 So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, “He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.” 8 And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. 10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you? 11 She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”

This is a picture of the church.

One focuses on judgement and condemnation with no chance for change.

The other focuses on grace and mercy where change is the main objective.

This is what Jesus did while He was on the earth; He addressed physical needs, laying the groundwork for what He would eventually do in addressing our spiritual needs on the cross.

Giving is good, but giving without the life changing message of the Gospel has no eternal impact.

If all Jesus did was go around doing good, but never went to the cross, our spiritual needs would not have been taken care of.

Solving physical needs alone doesn't fix the problem.

Giving to, caring for, and meeting the needs of others is just the prep-work for the real blessing.

The church is a hospital; it introduces you to the cure for your illness (know).

When we don't know what else to do—we go to the hospital.

The church is not a long-term care facility, whose only purpose is to wait on, care for, and cater to those that attend.

The church is a rehab center; it helps you regain your strength (grow).

This is where you are challenged, pushed, and made to feel uncomfortable.

This where things are adjusted, realigned, and put back in order.

This is where you are challenged to take another step even though it hurts.

The church is a training facility; it equips you to fulfill your purpose (find).

Ephesians 4:11-12 (NKJV)—[Jesus] gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some evangelists and some to be pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry.

The church is the hope of the world, the shining city on a hill, out from which you go and make a difference (go).

The purpose of the church is greater than you alone.

There are others that need to make it to the hospital.

1 Corinthians 3:6-8 (NKJV)—6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. 7 So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. 8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.