

Tough Lessons

BASED ON JOHN 8:1-59

PIX

Summer Les. 05

THE PHARISEES KNOW WHO JESUS IS—A TROUBLEMAKER!

THERE IS A WAY TO STOP JESUS. WE MUST TRAP HIM! THERE IS A WOMAN WHO IS CHEATING ON HER HUSBAND.

HOW DO YOU KNOW?

NEVER MIND THAT PART!

THIS JESUS IS A FRIEND OF SINNERS, RIGHT? IF HE SAYS TO LET THIS SINNING WOMAN GO, THEN HE'S BREAKING THE LAW OF MOSES—

—AND WE CAN ARREST HIM. BUT IF HE LETS US PUT HER TO DEATH, THEN HIS FOLLOWERS WILL TURN AGAINST HIM.

THE NEXT MORNING, JESUS IS TEACHING ON THE TEMPLE STEPS.

IF YOU KNOW ME, THEN YOU KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU—

TEACHER!

THIS WOMAN HAS BEEN CAUGHT COMMITTING ADULTERY. THE LAW OF MOSES SAYS SHE MUST BE STONED TO DEATH. WHAT DO YOU SAY?



FOR A MOMENT, JESUS IGNORES THE PHARISEES' INTERRUPTION AND WRITES IN THE DIRT WITH HIS FINGER.



WELL???
WHAT'S YOUR ANSWER?



WHICHEVER OF YOU HAS NEVER SINNED, YOU MAY THROW THE FIRST STONE AT HER.



JESUS HAS CAUGHT THEM IN THEIR OWN TRAP—NONE OF THEM CAN PRETEND THEY'VE NEVER SINNED. ONE BY ONE, THE PHARISEES DROP THEIR STONES AND SLINK AWAY FROM THE CROWD.



WOMAN, WHO ACCUSES YOU OF A CRIME?

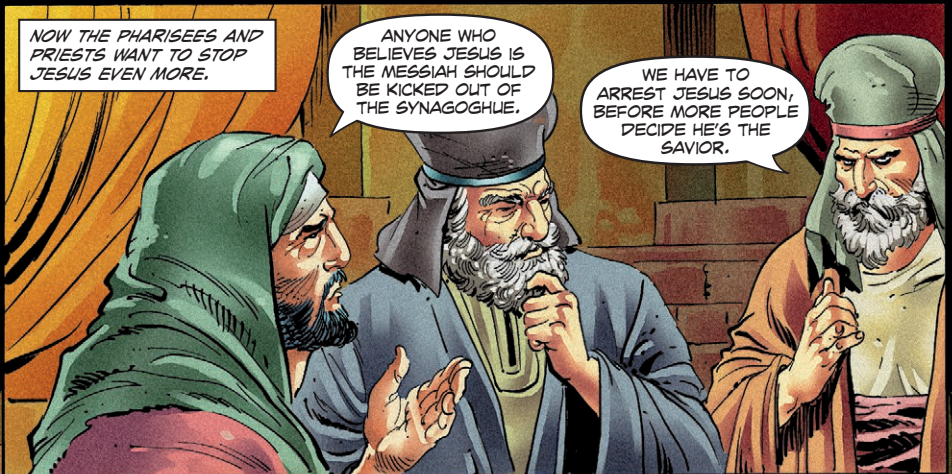
WELL ... NOBODY, I GUESS.

I DON'T ACCUSE YOU EITHER. GO IN PEACE, BUT SIN NO MORE.

NOW THE PHARISEES AND PRIESTS WANT TO STOP JESUS EVEN MORE.

ANYONE WHO BELIEVES JESUS IS THE MESSIAH SHOULD BE KICKED OUT OF THE SYNAGOGUE.

WE HAVE TO ARREST JESUS SOON, BEFORE MORE PEOPLE DECIDE HE'S THE SAVIOR.



JESUS IS TOO POPULAR TO ARREST. THE PRIESTS ARE AFRAID TO STIR UP TROUBLE WHILE THE CITY IS FILLED WITH PEOPLE ATTENDING THE FEAST UNTIL ONE DAY ...

I COME TO BRING GLORY TO GOD. I WAS WITH GOD EVEN BEFORE THE DAYS OF ABRAHAM.

HOW DARE HE CLAIM TO KNOW GOD LIKE THAT!

STONE HIM!
STONE HIM!
STONE HIM!



THE PHARISEES PICK UP STONES TO THROW AT JESUS, BUT HE SLIPS AWAY.



BY COMMAND OF THE KING

Edmund bent low over the neck of his beautiful white stallion as they crossed the castle drawbridge.

"I guess this is it, Herald," he whispered to the horse, choking back the tears as he handed the

reins to a groom.

Edmund prayed silently as he followed a squire to the prince's quarters. *"I thank You, Lord, for providing this way to save our farm. Please help me to be brave. And please keep my horse,*

Herald, safe.”

Edmund had raised Herald from a colt on his father’s farm. But times were hard and crops scarce. His family needed money badly. Prince Albert had offered to buy Herald more than once. Now Edmund’s family had no choice but to sell the stallion to the prince.

The great oak doors swung open, and Edmund squared his shoulders to face the prince.

“I’m glad you’ve changed your mind about selling Herald,” the prince said. “You’ll be well paid.”

Edmund bowed and said, “Please treat him kindly, Your Highness. That is all I ask.”

By the time Edmund got home, it was dark. He handed the gold coins to his father.

“I am truly a rich man,” his father said, “to have a son like you. You’ve made a hard sacrifice, son. God will not let you go unrewarded.”

The next morning Edmund’s mother asked him to carry some eggs to sell to the castle cook. Edmund accepted the job eagerly, hoping for a glimpse of Herald.

He wasn’t disappointed. He had almost reached the castle when the great white stallion came crashing out of the underbrush. Edmund had to jump out of the way. The prince was on Herald’s back, whipping

and spurring him mercilessly.

Just then a small animal darted out onto the road. Herald snorted and reared back wildly. Prince Albert, caught by surprise, fell to the road and lay there very still. Herald bolted down the road, glad to be free of his cruel rider.

Edmund smothered his feelings of anger toward the prince and went to see if he could help. The prince was unconscious and bleeding badly from a cut on his head.

Carefully Edmund bound the prince’s head with his cloth belt. Then he ran to the castle for help. Edmund was told to remain in the kitchen while four men went to carry the prince back to the castle.

Time weighed heavily on Edmund’s hands. “Please, Sire,” he asked the officer in charge, “may I go find the horse? He would come to me.”

“Okay, lad,” the officer answered. “But come right back when you find him. There’s likely to be a reward for the boy who saved the king’s son.”

Edmund put the soldier’s statement out of his mind as he ran out through the fields calling Herald’s name. He found Herald by a spring where they had often rested together.

“Ho, boy!” he cried in delight as the white stallion nuzzled

his cheek affectionately.

Edmund was surprised to be met by the king at the castle gate. He dismounted, bowed, and gave the king Herald's reins.

"You have saved Albert's life," the king said to Edmund, "and I am very grateful. You were forced to sell your horse to my son," he continued, "but my son treated him cruelly. I want you to take Herald back."

Edmund could hardly believe what he heard. "But I sold

the horse to the prince," he said, "and I cannot return the money. It has been used to pay the mortgage on our home."

The king smiled, "Then I command you to take your reward for saving the life of the prince."

Edmund knew that he must obey the king's command. Joyfully, he threw his arms around Herald's neck. "You are mine again," he whispered to the stallion, "by command of the king!"



fun shop

truth or lie?

Can you tell which of these statements
are true and which are not?

1. The daddy longlegs is the most poisonous spider in the world.
2. The U.S. Constitution requires that presidents and vice-presidents be from different states.
3. The smallest bone in your body is in your ear.
4. Saturn would float if we could put it in a bathtub.
5. The only city in the world whose names uses only vowels is Aiea, Hawaii.
6. You can get sunburned through a window.
7. If a shark bites you, you should hit it on the nose.
8. Spider silk is as strong as the material used in bulletproof vests.
9. If you cut a worm in half, each half will grow into a new worm.
10. Dr. Seuss wrote *Green Eggs and Ham* on a dare to write a book with 50 words or less.
11. Drawing around the edge of a CD with a green permanent marker will improve the CD's sound.
12. We only use 10% of our brain.



Pause a minute

1. **BAM!** You were messing around in the garage, like you were told not to, and just slammed your bike into the door. Now there's a big dent—and you're in deep trouble. You're going to need superpowers to get out of this mess, maybe a cloak to make you invisible or a deflecting device that shifts blame to your brother.



Take a look back

3. Honestly, how does hiding the truth diminish your strength when it comes to being believable? Why does it feel so good to get down to the truth of a matter (even when there are consequences)?

key verse

"Speak the truth to each other."

Zechariah 8:16



Record your thoughts

4. Think of truth as your superpower. When liars are in charge what do you lose? When you exercise the superpower of honesty what's saved?

Read more this week about the courage it takes to tell the truth:

Exodus 20:16

John 8:12-30

John 8:31-47

faith
forward
in touch with God



Play it out

2. God doesn't need X-ray vision to see when we're lying. He can tell you're scared to tell the truth. After all, you wouldn't want to get grounded. **Read Zechariah 8:16.** If you lie, maybe you avoid the pain of punishment—hiding that dent and your damage means no one gets hurt, right? Wrong! It's more damaging to the door and to you to hide the truth. You'd have to go into hiding and that dent can grow into a hole. But tell the truth? **BAM!** The door gets fixed and you're free from hiding. You're a superhero.

