

Newsong NOC Study Soul Talk – Week 1

Read John 8:2-12

Think about the question Tommy asked: Who are you in this scripture? Are you the Pharisee, seeking judgment on a sinner? Are you the adulterer, caught in sin and in need of redemption? Or are you Jesus, extending grace to a sinner, even someone who has sinned against you? Where are you at, and who are you choosing to be?

We all can be Pharisees. We live life as if everything around us is meant to feed our worth, our pride, our status. We look to compare to make ourselves feel better about where we are at. Yet this mindset kills our relationship with Christ. In Christ, we do not need the validation of the world - we are already validated by God as He calls us His sons and daughters. In Christ, we no longer need to feel that we need to have the approval of God or others - we are already accepted. But the reality is that understanding is a difficult mindset to embrace. When others hurt us, we are quick to grab a stone, ready to hurt back. When we are sinned against, we let anger, bitterness, and hatred take root in our hearts. It's hard to extend forgiveness and grace to others when we have this mentality. God wants to free us from this life of self-focused living.

1) How are you like the Pharisee? What are the strongholds of pride and selfishness that God is calling you to let go?

This past Sunday, we all experienced the truth that we are the woman - the adulterer caught in her shame and disgrace, facing the potential consequence of her life of sin. We deserve punishment and death, but with Christ coming into the world to save us from our sin and forgive us from our unrighteousness, we are forgiven and redeemed. Take a moment to think about your own sin and issues that hold you back from fully experiencing freedom in Christ.

2) What are those sins that Christ is calling you to let go? (And it could be similar to the sins of the Pharisees - that's ok)

As Christ speaks to you with no condemnation and calls you to "go and sin no more," take time to rest in His grace - that your sins have been paid for by Christ dying on the cross for you.

3) As you rest with this truth, how do you want to respond to Him? What tangible steps are you going to take?

4) We are all challenged by Christ's response to the woman. Who do you need to extend radical grace to? Who do you need to forgive? What will that look like?

Spend time sharing in a smaller group setting, and take time to pray for each other in the areas of sin, forgiveness, and reconciliation that need to take place.