



## **RECHARGE! LIVING THE LIFE**

### **LIVING ON PURPOSE**

**February 8, 2015**

In John 8 we find the story of the woman caught in adultery who is brought before Jesus by some scribes and Pharisees who want to “test” Jesus. In response to this test, Jesus wrote on the ground and dispelled the situation.

In many ways this story “tests” us as people of faith too. We can look at this test by asking three questions: What is in our heart, what is in our hand and what would we write in the sand?

The first question—what is in our heart—reminds us that the woman’s life went off track somewhere. Her purpose in life was not to be adulterous and yet that’s where she wound up. How is it that her heart’s disposition changed to the point where she would be unfaithful? In this way we have to search our hearts too. Where are we hurting inside and what might that hurt lead us to? In other words, how might we lose our purpose of “loving God, loving our neighbor and loving ourselves” because of a broken heart?

The second question—what is in our hand—asks us to examine the role of the religious leaders who were ready to stone the woman to death. As we see these folks in our mind’s eye, we have to admit that there are times when we want to pick up a stone to throw. We can target an enemy, we can justify our actions, we know how to take care of things and all it takes is throwing a stone. What is in your hand? At whom do you want to throw the stone? Who has a stone in their hand with your name on it?

The third question—what will you write in the sand—makes us consider Jesus’s role in this story. The religious leaders were testing him to see if he would acquiesce to their bad interpretation of the Mosaic law. Instead of giving in, Jesus remembered that his purpose was to bring light into the world and he did that in a way that demonstrated passionate grace. By simply writing in the sand he illuminated the sinfulness of the religious leaders and dispelled them. Similarly in his conversation with the woman, Jesus reminded her that she was to live a holy life and encouraged her to do so.

Our devotional practice this week is to consider these three questions each day:

What is in your heart

What is in your hand

What are you writing in the sand?

Pastor Scott