

That Thing Everybody's Doing But Nobody's Talking About
Fisherman's Picnic Sunday August 7, 2022

1. That thing everybody's doing put nobody's talking about.
 - a. The things everybody's talking about
 - i. Equality, justice, violence, politics, social upheaval, vaccines and viruses, international relations, electric cars and sustainability, climate change
 - ii. Things everybody's doing but nobody's talking about
 - (1) What I thought
 - (a) breathing
 - (b) walking
 - (2) What I found
 - (a) Trying to get eight hours of sleep in three hours
 - (b) Watching cartoons after a scary movie so you don't have nightmares
 - (c) nearly having a panic attack trying to put the receipt in your wallet so the next guy in line can move up and check out
 - (d) The look you give the door monitor at Best Buy when you when in you leave without buying anything
 - (e) That little smile you have and sound you make when you have no clue what the other person just said to you.
 - (f) When you get to hold the McDonald's bag on the way home and you eat fries from everyone else boxes then take the most full one for yourself when you get home.
 - (g) That face you make when you walk past someone you know but not enough for you to say hello
 - b. **This morning I want to talk about something every single one of us does but no one talks about.**
 - i. Why is it important to talk about this thing that everybody does but no one talks about? (Reasons)
 - (1) This thing everybody does but no one talks about makes sense of grace.
 - (a) Some Christians like to talk about grace, about God's undeserved favor,
 - (i) but why shouldn't God like us?
 - (ii) Why wouldn't God want to spend eternity with us?
 - (iii) Why wouldn't everybody go to heaven?
 - (b) What's the big deal about grace?
 - (2) This thing everybody does but no one talks about reveals the depth of God's love for us.
 - (a) "God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life."
 - (b) If everyone were convinced God loves them and behaved like beloved people we wouldn't have to talk about equality and social justice and violence and social upheaval, and poverty, and all the other things that clog our thinking and

sabotage our peace.

- (c) When we identify this thing everybody does but nobody talks about, it puts God's love for us into true perspective.
 - (i) This thing everybody does but nobody talks about provides a stark contrast to the wonder and warmth of God loves for us
 - (ii) When we see this thing for what it is, we'll stand amazed that God should love us at all

(3) This thing that everybody does but no one talks about requires divine intervention in the form of the life and death of Jesus Christ Himself

- (a) Interventions
 - (i) Before a pandemic breaks out you develop a vaccine to intervene
 - (ii) Before a bridge collapses you shore up the arches
 - (iii) Before a child fails you hire a tutor or a coach
- (b) **The threat posed by this thing that everybody does and nobody talks about is so great, so overwhelming, that only God Himself can intervene and only with Himself does He successfully rescue us.**

2. So, what is this thing that everybody does but nobody talks about that threatens us so greatly that God Himself must intervene for us?

a. **John 8:2-11 (ESV)** *Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst they said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him.*

Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her."

And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."

b. The story

- i. Early in the morning
- ii. Woman caught in adultery (yanked from bed)
- iii. The question: Whose disobedience will Jesus promote
 - (1) Failure to obey the Law of marital fidelity
 - (2) Failure to obey the Law of personal obedience
 - (3) How will you handle "sin," the failure to honor God by keeping

His Law?

- iv. Jesus' response
 - (1) He bent to down and wrote with his finger on the ground
 - (2) He stands and confronts them: "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her."
 - (3) He bends down and writes
- v. Their response
 - (1) They all went away, one by one, oldest first, until everyone is gone
 - (2) They came all at once, all in a fury to talk about this woman's sin
 - (3) But Jesus makes it clear, **sin is the thing everybody does that nobody talks about.**
 - (a) *Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.*
 - (b) The only sinless person standing there that day was Jesus.

3. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

- a. What is sin?
 - i. Jesus: love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength.
 - (1) Sin is breaking the Law
 - (2) Failure to love God with all that we are and all that we have and all that we think and all that we do is sin.
 - ii. Sin is everything we are and do that treats God as less than all He is and does.
- b. What is sin?
 - i. John Piper, Pastor's Conference
 - (1) Sin is:
 - (a) The glory of God not honored.
 - (b) The holiness of God not revered.
 - (c) The greatness of God not admired.
 - (d) The power of God not praised.
 - (e) The truth of God not sought.
 - (f) The wisdom of God not esteemed.
 - (g) The beauty of God not treasured.
 - (h) The goodness of God not savored.
 - (i) The faithfulness of God not trusted.
 - (j) The promises of God not believed.
 - (k) The commandments of God not obeyed.
 - (l) The justice of God not respected.
 - (m) The wrath of God not feared.
 - (n) The grace of God not cherished.
 - (o) The presence of God not prized.
 - (p) The person of God not loved.
 - (2) *Sin is any feeling or thought or speech or action that comes from a heart that does not treasure God over all other things.*
 - ii. Sin is everything in us that exalts our self over God.
 - (1) Sin is everything we are, everything we think, feel, and do that puts

us first and God second.

(2) In every way that we fail to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, it is sin.

(3) *Sin is our preference for anything over God. Sin is our disapproval of God. Sin is our exchange of his glory for substitutes. Sin is our suppression of the truth of God. Sin is our heart's hostility to God. It is who we are to the bottom of our hearts.*

c. How can Jesus fail to condemn this woman for her sin and put her under the burden of an impossible command?

4. Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn thee, go, and sin no more."

a. Not because her adultery was not sin. It was.

b. Not because she was sinless. She was not.

c. Jesus issued this injunction because he, the sinless One, was going to take the death her sin deserved.

i. His death would be by cross rather than stone

ii. His death would be hers, not His alone.

(1) He, the One without sin,

(2) The One Who alone stood in position to condemn and punish not only her sin but the sin of her accusers and every bystander to the ends of the earth,

(a) satisfies justice

(b) extends mercy

(c) and sends her forth, no longer a slave to sin, but a beloved child of God Most High.

5. There was only One innocent on the street that day, only One righteous person in the crowd.

a. His name is Jesus.

b. He is the Son of God.

i. God come to dwell among us.

ii. God in human flesh

iii. Creator wearing the robes of creation, Who came from heaven to die for sin and deliver from the threat of death all those who put their faith in Him.

c. This Jesus took on Himself your sin and my sin.

i. He lived the life of purity and holiness and love for God that none of us can and none of us does.

ii. He died for us the death we deserve. He died in our place, on our behalf, so that we might live at peace now and forever with God.

iii. He rescues us from both the threat and curse of sin by offering Himself to God in place on the cross and all who believe in Him, who put their trust in Him will not perish but have everlasting life.

6. Sin is the thing that everybody does but nobody talks about.

a. Sin is the reason God, in love, intervenes in grace by His Son, Jesus.

- b. Let's talk about sin this morning, and mercy, and grace, and compassion, and forgiveness, and faith, and new life.
 - i. Let's identify this thing that at everybody does but no one talks about
 - ii. Let's bring our sin out to the open before Jesus and hear what He says as He bends to the earth, not to pick up a stone of condemnation but to bear the cross of redemption, forgiveness, and salvation.
 - (1) God sent forth His Son into the world not to condemn the world but that the world through him might be saved.
 - (2) God demonstrates His love for us in this, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
 - (a) Your sin is not too much for God to forgive.
 - (b) Trust Christ today and let God give you a new life.