



Standing In The Gap

Pastor Crystal Heisel, May 14, 2017

John 8:1-11

Jesus returned to the Mount of Olives, but early the next morning he was back again at the Temple. A crowd soon gathered, and he sat down and taught them. As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd

“Teacher,” they said to Jesus, “this woman was caught in the act of adultery. ⁵ The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?”⁶ They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. ⁷ They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, “All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!” ⁸ Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust.

When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. ¹⁰ Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, “Where are your accusers? Didn’t even one of them condemn you?”¹¹ “No, Lord,” she said. And Jesus said, “Neither do I. Go and sin no more.”

1. Standing in the Gap begins with me saying YES Lord to those He places in my path.

- When God prompts me, He will equip me.
- God equips me to do the things that please Him.

*May he equip you with all you
need for doing his will.
Hebrews 13:21*

*God hath not given us the spirit of fear;
but of power, and of love,
and of a sound mind.
2 Timothy 1:7*

2. Standing In the Gap is not necessarily easy and it will sometimes cost me.

- It can cost me time.
- It can cost me money.
- It is rarely convenient.
- It's not always comfortable.

3. Standing in the Gap, is believing God is at work even if I don't see the results I am hoping for.

*And let us not grow weary of doing good,
for in due season we will reap,
if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9*

**Declaration:
I am determined to live a life
Standing in the Gap for Others.**

Upcoming Teaching Schedule

May 21

- Alamo: Doug Heisel, all services
- Dublin 9:30 & 11:15am - Doug (streaming from Alamo)

Also everyone is invited to our next
KINGDOM BUILDERS EVENT,
on May 21st, from 5pm-6:15 pm, in Alamo
with special guest: Nancy Ortberg.



Life Group Discussion & Questions

BREAKING THE ICE: Share what you did on Mother's Day.

DIGGING IN: Read John 8:1-11 According to the law, this woman should have been stoned. Jesus does the surprising and the unexpected, and gives this woman extravagant grace.

1. It's easy to think that only Jesus can act like Jesus. Jesus demonstrates what it means to stand in the gap when he stood in between the woman caught in adultery and her accusers who wanted to condemn her. In today's world our accusers are those that would say things like "you aren't good enough", "you'll never improve," "you're a failure," "you messed up again." In a practical way, how might you stand in the gap for another person in need?
2. Can you think of a time someone stood in the gap for you? How did it make a difference in your life? How did it make a difference in the life of those connected to you?
3. Read Proverbs 2:1-9 God will give you the wisdom for when and how to reach out to the individual He places on your heart. When you stand in the gap for others you are intervening on God's behalf.

BRINGING IT HOME: The next time you question whether your life makes a difference, or if your life matters, remember there will always be someone who needs another person to come up alongside of them. Despite their fears, their failures or their challenging circumstances, they need someone willing to come to their rescue and help them get to the other side of their situation. That, my friend, matters. That is standing in the gap. So Don't give up.... You Matter!