

## ①9 Gospel of John

### INTRODUCTION | The light of Life

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Today's passage is one of the most beautiful stories of forgiveness in the Bible. It is the message of the gospel proclaiming the forgiveness and love. The Bible repeatedly speaks about the forgiveness of sin and God's love for us as the central message of Christianity. Let's take a look at three points: 1) forgiveness of sin through the grace of Jesus, 2) repentance and the renewal of the heart, 3) the gospel of forgiveness.

### SCRIPTURE | John 8:1-12 (ESV)

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1 but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. 2 Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. 3 The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst 4 they said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. 5 Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" 6 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. 7 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." 8 And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. 9 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. 10 Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" 11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more." 12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

### QUESTIONS |

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- 1: (v.3-6) The scribes and the Pharisees brought the women, who were caught in the act of adultery, to Jesus. Why did they do so? What were their intention and the purpose behind it? (Ref. Leviticus 20:10)
- 2: Compare the attitude of the scribes and the Pharisees against the woman with that of Jesus. How did they treat this woman differently? What kind of characteristics of Jesus can you draw from this?
- 3: (v.7-9) What did Jesus say to those who condemned the adulterous woman? What kind of lesson did this teach them? (Ref. Romans 6:23)
- 4: Jesus, who forgives our sins, is without sin, and yet he offered himself as a sacrifice with an everlasting love. If we struggle to love those around us, why is that so? Also, what kind of attitude is needed in order for us to forgive? (Ref. Asahi News Paper : Kazuyo Katsuma)
- 5: (v.10-11) When the woman was left alone with Jesus, he was the only person who could judge her rightly as the Holy Son of God. How did Jesus treat her? How was the forgiveness of Jesus unique and special?
6. Often, in the message of forgiveness, people tend to underestimate the seriousness of sin or to neglect the pursuit of justice. Or some may even claim that this would lead people to become lazy and self-indulgent. How does Jesus address that point? How can the grace of forgiveness lead to the pursuit of justice, and the good deeds?

## Reading (Reference) |

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### **Leviticus 20:10**

"If a man commits adultery with the wife of his neighbor, both the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.

### **Romans 6:23**

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **Asahi Newspaper : Evening Mail, 6th June 2009.**

#### **"The Power of Forgiveness" written by Kazuyo Katsuma**

If you forgive others you will be able to avoid negative influence and think about the future more positively.

Trying to see things from another person's perspective will lead you toward a neutral point of view where you can be free from the anger caused by negative incidents.

The next step in understanding is 'acceptance' – saying out loud "This person has been through a difficult time, so I forgive this person.", we can then receive the power of forgiveness.

## UPCOMING EVENTS | This Week & Next Week

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**Grace city gospel** (27 Mon)

**Leaders training supplementary lecture** (27 Mon)

**Lunch Time Meeting** (30 Thu) Otemachi and Junbocho

**Obento project** (5/2 Sat)

**Worship Time Change** (5/3 Sun) 14:00 @KDDI HALL

**GC SPRING Retreat @Maysubarako** (3<sup>rd</sup> May -5<sup>th</sup> May )