

We Are Family
**Mercy: Loosening Our Grip on
The Rocks We Hold Tight**

John 8:1-11

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / Mar 19, 2017

I. Being quick to pronounce judgment will lead you to do very dark and sinful things.

John 8:3,4

³The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and **placing her in the midst** ⁴they said to him, “Teacher, this woman has been **caught in the act of adultery**.

II. Most people who rush to pick up rocks have an ulterior motive.

John 8:5,6

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.**

5 Reasons We Like to Collect Rocks

1. **EASY**—there’s a lot to throw rocks at in our dark and fallen world.
2. **EVERYBODY’s** doing it.
3. **EFFECTIVE**—You feel like you’re accomplishing something.
4. **ENJOYABLE**—You feel better than the person you’re stoning. Your sin feels small & insignificant.
5. **ESCAPE**—It temporarily takes your sin out of the limelight of your heart and focuses you on the sin of another.

What about you? Are you quick to judge a person or situation? If so, how is this impacting your relationships? Have you ever been judged incorrectly? Have you ever passed wrong judgment on another?

III. Life experience & God’s Word both lead us to do one thing: drop the rock.

John 8:9

⁹But 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.

“I have never met the man I could despair of after discerning what lies in me apart from the grace of God.” — **Oswald Chambers, My Utmost for His Highest**

IV. Real mercy is given with no strings attached.

John 8:10-11

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.”

The mercy Jesus shows the adulterous woman was truly unconditional. The mercy we show others shouldn't be connected to a specific outcome we desire.

What about you? Do you withhold mercy because you don't know what the results will be in the long run?

V. We all deserve to be stoned...but instead we've received mercy!

Isa. 53:6

⁶ **All we like sheep have gone astray;** we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Rom. 3:23,24

²³ for **all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,** ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

Mercy triumphs over judgment.

~ **James 2:13** ~

What about you? As you reflect on the fact that you deserve judgment but have instead received mercy, how does that make you feel? Does that “level the playing field” between you and those you are unmerciful towards? Why or why not? If you commit to showing mercy as God has, how might that impact those closest to you?