

LIVING IN THE TENSION

SERMON NOTES:

But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them. Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?" This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear. So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first." And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord."

— **John 8:1-11 (NKJV)**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did

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not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

— John 1:1-14 (NKJV)

Jesus was full of grace and truth.

With grace, you neglect the truth.

With truth, you neglect grace.

Grace with no truth is meaningless.

Truth with no grace is mean.

Jesus was 100% power and 100% wisdom.

Jesus wasn't a reactor, Jesus was a responder.

DISCUSSION GUIDE:

1. What did you learn about the heart and character of Jesus in today's message?
2. Do you lean towards having more grace or more truth?
 - How can you become more balanced in grace and truth this week?
3. In what areas have you not accepted grace in your life?
 - In what ways can you receive grace so that you can better extend it?
4. In what areas do you need more of the Lord's truth in your life?
 - In what ways can you actively seek truth so you can live with a higher standard?
5. Are you a reactor or a responder?
 - What steps can you practically take this week to respond instead of reacting?
6. What situations in your life are you still mourning that Jesus already has taken care of?