

No Stone Left Unturned

Part Four - Drop Those Stones

John 8:1-11

Jesus returned to the Mount of Olives, 2 but early the next morning he was back again at the Temple. A crowd soon gathered, and he sat down and taught them. 3 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. 4 “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. 9 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.”

Proverbs 15:4

Kind words are good medicine, but deceitful words can really hurt.

Many times, words are the sticks and stones that break us.

Proverbs 18:21

What you say can preserve life or destroy it; so you must accept the consequences of your words.

Ephesians 4:29

Do not use harmful words, but only helpful words, the kind that build up and provide what is needed, so that what you say will do good to those who hear you.

The stones we throw are either vindictive or retaliatory.

James 3:9

With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness.

Romans 12:19

Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord.”

Dropping our stones means we choose revelation over manipulation or retaliation.

Acts 7:55

But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed steadily into heaven and saw the glory of God, and he saw Jesus standing in the place of honor at God's right hand.

How to Drop the Stones

1. Put a guard over your mouth.

Psalm 141:3

O LORD, set a guard at my mouth. Keep watch over the door of my lips.

Philippians 4:8

In conclusion, my friends, fill your minds with those things that are good and that deserve praise: things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and honorable.

2. Use your words to bless.

Romans 12:14

Bless those who persecute you. Bless them, and don't curse them.

3. Tear down principalities not people.

Jeremiah 1:9-10

Then the LORD stretched out his hand and touched my mouth. The LORD said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth. 10 Today I have put you in charge of nations and kingdoms. You will uproot and tear down. You will destroy and overthrow. You will build and plant."

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

The weapons we use in our fight are not the world's weapons but God's powerful weapons, which we use to destroy strongholds. We destroy false arguments; 5we pull down every proud obstacle that is raised against the knowledge of God; we take every thought captive and make it obey Christ.