

## The Search for Justice

**Opening:** Fried Chicken Honesty *Dallas Times Herald*, Sept. 23, 1966

**Text:** [John 8: 1-11](#)

**Question:** What is it that people are always searching for in our relationships, friendships and working environments?

We look for it in police officers, judges, teachers, elected officials and car salesman ...

**Answer:** Fairness – Justice - Integrity

In our most special relationships, we want even more - We want to give and receive love that is deep, honest and intimate!

**God** – who is the initiator of intimacy, wants to share that kind love with us.

Young children receive that kind of love from mom and dad, who would do anything, give up anything for them.

Jameson, not yet three months old, is already responding to that love

- He gets animated when he sees Mom and Dad in the morning, kicking and chattering trying to communicate his excitement
- in the purest way his is already returning love back to them

Jesus taught us to think of and call God – Father – *Your Heavenly Father* ... **The original God Father**

Parents, with few exceptions, love their children desperately; working hard to provide for their safety, comfort and protection

**Parents want the best for their children but they don't always know what the best thing is**

They've got to make tough decisions in the developmental years

- What to feed them – teach them
- How to keep themselves from killing them in teen years
- Where to draw the line on what they can or can't do ....

**In a word Fairness**

**Wrong Choices** Parents face the fear of making wrong decisions ... what if our decisions lead them down the wrong path of life?

Let me help you take a load off today ...

**Proverbs 3:5-6** (NLT) Reads

<sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.

<sup>6</sup> Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

**Personal story** ... Jen and I raised three daughters – we wanted to be fair and just with all three

We determined to treat them equally ... all the same – with truth, justice and the American way

However... we discovered that treating all three girls the same way, for the sake of fairness, was not only impossible - it bordered on insanity!

Because each one was unique - treating them exactly the same would be the opposite of fair!  
One size definitely doesn't fit all!

**We discovered that we need insight and wisdom ... not repetition**

We needed God's help

It turns out that God sent us that help in several ways –

- His Word is packed with examples and teachings of truth – honesty and fairness
- His son – God in human form modeled how to live our lives

**John 8: 1-11** (NLT) Women Caught in Adultery

<sup>8</sup> Jesus returned to the Mount of Olives, <sup>2</sup> but early the next morning he was back again at the Temple. A crowd soon gathered, and he sat down and taught them. <sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> "Teacher," they said to Jesus, "this woman was caught in the act of adultery. <sup>5</sup> The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?"

<sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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!"

<sup>8</sup> Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust.

<sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, “Where are your accusers? Didn’t even one of them condemn you?”

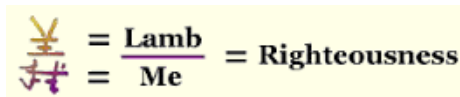
<sup>11</sup> “No, Lord,” she said. And Jesus said, “Neither do I. Go and sin no more.”

**In this account Jesus demonstrates:**

- **Love** –he’s doesn’t condemn the woman caught in adultery
- **Justice** – let the person who is without sin throw the first stone
- **Honesty** – His final comment to the woman – Go and sin no more (repentance required)

Read segment from *A Love Worth Giving*, by Max Lucado

Chinese character 義/义 The top symbol yi = justice, righteousness - meaning sheep  
The bottom half of 義 is the character 我(wǒ) which is the personal pronoun "I".



The religious leaders his enemies had set Jesus up or so they thought –

**They hated him because he didn’t fit their brand of truth and justice** – they wanted justice by strict obedience to the law ... and that’s what’s so amazing about this account – Jesus held them accountable to their own standard of justice

They misunderstood what Jesus had stated publicly – “Don’t think I’ve come to do away with the law – I haven’t come to destroy it I’ve come to complete it

That’s what he did by becoming Go’s sacrifice lamb - his death on the cross covers all of our sin  
But there is a catch .... The gift of grace will not be forced on anyone – it has to be accepted

- The religious leaders had plotted and planned waiting for the opportune moment to spring trap
- They dragged the woman away in the middle of the act – wasn’t by chance or luck
- Why didn’t they bring the man?
- Coordinated with Jesus teaching in public outside the temple - a great deal of underhanded planning
- **All with the pretense of wanting justice**

They spun their spiders web –leaving no way out for Jesus or this unfortunate woman

The sin was legitimate - the 7th commandment - penalty–death by stoning

They licked their chops – kill two birds with one stone – Publicly discredit Jesus and reclaim their top dog religious authority status

<sup>7</sup>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!” <sup>8</sup>Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust.

**Jesus** ... Ok let her be stoned but let the person who is perfect throw the first stone – They file out one by one humbled and embarrassed because they had not lived up to their own standard of justice

**Perfect love and justice = Righteousness God’s word for fairness**

Only God offers that combination of Love and justice ... It’s called Grace – It provides something that no amount of money can buy no amount of education or success can achieve

Peace with God – peace with yourself -

If you’re burdened down with the weight of this time we’re living in consider these closing words by him

**Matthew 11:28-30** (NLT)

<sup>28</sup> Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.”