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# “Day Dreamers” - a word from Chris Hill



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Inside This Issue

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## A Stepping Stone

Lately I have been talking to rocks.

I have been wondering what the biblical rocks and stones would indeed cry out were they given the chance to testify to the goodness of God.

But while I was in the Old Testament - just turning the corner to walk to Daniel's house to interview a rock, another group of rocks from the New Testament cried out for my homiletical attention.

So I turned my head and walked a few centuries down the dusty streets of Jerusalem to hear these rocks' praise report.

For these stones are found on the temple grounds themselves. When Jesus is teaching there one morning and suddenly a crowd of angry and conniving men bring into the very midst of the congregation, that Jesus is teaching, a woman who has been caught in the very act of adultery.

In the biblical narrative Jesus goes on to deftly defend the woman by really offering for her no defense. He simply demonstrates that the men who have come to judge her are far too guilty of their

own sins to stand to judge this woman for her sins.

He does not dismiss or condone her sin. He does not wink twice and turn a blind eye to her sin. Jesus elects to extend to her his divine mercy and simultaneously defends her from the destructive plans of her would-be executioners.

Jesus says, "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone" and the bible tells us that from the oldest to the youngest each man drops his rock and walks away.

It is these stones, these dropped stones that stir my day dreams today.

They were carried to the temple to destroy her but at the feet of Jesus, on that holy ground, what was meant to destroy her did not prosper against her as each man dropped his stone and walked away.

Perhaps this woman found herself completely surrounded by all of these dropped stones. Completely circumnavigated by these would be missiles of her demise, now cast into the dust.

The rocks that were carried to kill her

became the rocks that kept her. A memorial of grace and an altar of mercy that surrounded her on all sides.

If these stones could cry out in praise to God perhaps they would say "He is the God of the second chance!"

Perhaps they would say, "We are the stones that the woman stepped over when she rose up and walked away on the day that God's grace released her to go and live a life without sin".

And these "stepping stones" serve as reminders to us all that the God who gave grace and forgiveness to this woman is still giving grace, mercy and love to us all.

All we need to do is step over the invisible stones that surround us all and go and sin no more.

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