

Friend of Sinners October 6, 2019
Adam Donyes

Adam began his message apologizing to any there who have been hurt by the church. We are all sinners and he confessed his sin of enjoying scaring his wife . . . and nearly giving a heart attack to an old couple!

Abraham Lincoln Story: Dr. Gurley, Pastor at New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, Washington, D.C. Lincoln's comment after hearing the message one Sunday: "He forgot the most important ingredient. He forgot to ask us to do something great."

Discuss: How did you feel when you walked out of WHFC Sunday with the challenge Adam gave? Refer to John 14:12. We are to do even "greater things than these." *Greater things than Jesus did?* Do you feel challenged to show compassion, to *do* something, make a personal change, take a step to continue to grow up in Christ?

A video reminded us of the compassion of Jesus as the Pharisees challenged him regarding the woman taken in adultery. John 8:9-11 His words stung, and the Pharisees dropped their stones and left.

Discuss: Have you experienced an act of compassion when you were confronted with sin? Or had an opportunity to demonstrate compassion to another person?

"Pride and compassion cannot co-exist." What does this mean, to you, to me? "Men who are exceedingly blind to their own faults, are often exceedingly quick sighted to the faults of others." -Justin Edwards

Discuss: Matthew 7:1-5 Remembering the illustration of the 'plank' in our own eye, as we judge others for their sin, have you judged someone, whether in words or private thoughts, even in the past few days? Have you identified your plank(s)? Are you going to do anything about it? Are you ready to pick up the challenge to be a 'friend to sinners'?

Discuss: The video of the young man forgiving the police officer who shot and killed his brother. Can you put yourself in his place? Could you have shown compassion and forgiveness in the same circumstance had it happened to you?

Discuss: Statement by Mahatma Gandhi: "I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ." And Buck Parsons: "I want to hate my sins more than I hate the sins of others who sin differently than I do." How does this hit home for you?

We are to come to Jesus just as we are. He is not in love with a future vision of us; he is in love with us today!