



Modern Jesus | Condemnation: Keep it Dead | Ronnie Johnson
Weekly Study | 11.3.19

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

If you had to delete all but three of the apps from your phone, which three would you keep?

SHARE

This week we launched a new series called Modern Jesus. Jesus was a young carpenter who later became a Jewish Rabbi who lived on the other side of the world over 2000 years ago. So why should we continue to follow Him today? How can he possibly still be relevant today? So much time has passed, and Jesus has only grown more influential, not less.

So, who is this man Jesus and why should it matter to me and in this modern world we live in?

In your opinion, is Jesus still relevant today? How is our world different because of his life and teaching?

Ronnie opened the series by talking about all the ways this Jewish carpenter still affects our culture today. Jesus lived 33 years, never traveling far from home, yet his life and teaching has infiltrated every shoreline of the planet. His life ended upon a roman cross, crucified in what looked like failure to all those who followed him. But nothing could be further from the truth. His power couldn't be stopped; Jesus changed the trajectory of the world and his influence continues to grow today!

G R O W

Read John 8:1-11

What stands out most to you about this story?

It is said that you can know a person by the people they surround themselves with. As Ronnie mentioned this weekend, Jesus surrounded himself with the people on the margins, like the social outcasts and sinners. Jesus changed the culture he walked into and disrupted the pious legalism that was enforced by the religious authorities of the day.

Why do you think sinners gravitated toward Jesus and why would this have angered the religious ruling class?

When Jesus was standing with this woman who committed adultery, she was in great peril because she knew what being caught meant. She understood that the law was that she was to die by having stones thrown at her until she was knocked unconscious and killed. Yet, Jesus, the only one without sin who had the power to throw stones, didn't. In fact, Jesus used his unlimited power to protect her, not to condemn her. He came to save her and to reveal to those with stones in their hands that they too had sin.

Let's be honest, why is it so easy to find ourselves ganging up on people when they are caught in sin or publicly being humiliated?

**Why do you think the 'older ones' were the first to drop their stones in front of Jesus?
What does this say about those who have lived a lot of life?**

Is there a time in your life where you knew you were really wrong, yet received grace in a special or memorable way?

M O V E

Read 1 John 3:18-21

It is far too easy to love with words or speech, that is the stuff of hallmark cards, but to love with “actions and in truth” requires a whole new kind of love. Love in action is selfless, sometimes difficult, takes time out of the day and is sometimes not reciprocated. It is the kind of love that requires that we identify with those that don’t look like us or act like us, and it is a kind of love that might get you persecuted or made fun of because of who you might associate with in Jesus’ name.

Ask God to bring to your mind someone that you have proximity to, that you need to take action to love (whether that is engaging them in conversation, having them over for a meal, or inviting to meet you at a church gathering).

What is one practical step you can take this week to engage that person with the love of Jesus?

Romans 6:1-2

As we wrap things up, hopefully we all walk away from today understanding that God’s law is like a MRI machine, which reveals to us what is broken and that we need a heart surgeon. The MRI machine doesn’t do the heart surgery. This is why we need a Savior. Our sin separates us from the life God desires for us. Because of his grace and mercy, we don’t go on sinning to reveal how abundant God’s grace is, not at all! God’s grace should lead us to want more of what God wants and to live more like him.

Now go in grace and love in Jesus’ name, and let us go to those who desperately desire to meet Jesus!

P R A Y

As a group, spend some time praying for each other. If you are in a co-ed group, it can be helpful to break up into two groups in order to share more easily about your prayer request.

T O G O

John 8:11

“...And Jesus said to her, ‘Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more’.”

