

Jesus & Gay Marriage

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Feb. 20, 2005

[ER CLIP #1] Over the past yr - biggest struggle w/ Gay marriage debate- way many "Xns" addressing issue- at times -**incredulous** at words that have been so **harshly condemning**, so **self righteously cruel**

While **mind** struggles-"where the truth is on this issue" Inside -**heart** cries, "**Why are you acting this way?**" Xn voices seem so "Graceless"... so haughty and proud... Whole time asking, "**Is this the way God wants us to relate to his world?**" "**Is this best way to show God's love on this issue?**" **LONG PAUSE**

(**moral & sociological & theological** questions aside for the moment- **is this the right tone?**)... Are we taking right **stance** in relation to the issue?... Are our opinions being **properly and gracefully measured?**... Are we patiently waiting for the **right time to speak?**

PAUSE... Yes there is a huge **conundrum** for Xn's here... Bible says things - make easy answers impossible to find... - I'm beginning to think/I know... - "**There are no easy answers!**" **PAUSE**...

Only as we're willing to live in a **very hard place** - that we stand a chance of getting close to some resolution! **PAUSE**... "**This kind of place!**" **[JOHN 8 MESSAGE]**

What did Christ do **w/woman w/busted sexuality?**

1. Showed the most amazing grace/wisdom... protecting her, not condemning, **risk his life!**...
2. Then told the woman to "Go and sin no more!"

PAUSE... **Grace first, then truth**... in that order...

Same way God dealt with all of us/human story! God so loved us first (came via X, **stood with us, lived with us, risked life for us while still messed up, forgave us**)... then he told us to live out of that **place/out of that grace**... try to be **better people!** "**The sinless one among you, go first: throw the stone.**" Is this the **stance** - we must take in relation to **God's homosexual children**... is this the **conundrum** we must feel as we face those who, **just like us, bear God's image**... to those, **who just like us**, trying to figure out how to deal with 'their broken sexuality'...

JUST LIKE US... fellow human beings (not another camp... same camp!... tribe... same tribe!)... & our sexuality - just as broken by sin as theirs! **[Not just choices but as a condition!]** -- Things are not the way supposed to be - whole continuum! (Hetero...Bi... trans... homo) - **all messed up! (NYDAM) - This is the first thing we need to ADMIT!**

"If you want to take a stand on this issue... stand with that condemning crowd facing Jesus in that situation, that day!" **PAUSE**... Stand there... and look at Jesus' face... see the expression in his eyes- **hear him say**, "Go ahead **throw** out that comment... say those words... **judge away!**... "the sinless one among you, first" " **LONG LONG PAUSE**...

hmmm... even better... **stand with that woman as a vulnerable sexually broken being!**... hear X's voice from another perspective... as you're looking at his back... know God himself standing in the gap for you... protecting you... loving you before a judging world... **saving your very life!**... **LONG LONG PAUSE**...

Stand in both of those places... and do what?...

1. Feel this huge **humility**... as consider **broken self**... admit honestly - how you address other's brokenness.
2. Realize **God is right there**... intimately present - as you make choices how to act(as thrower and target)
Spirit of X - **is right here [in our times]**... right now!!!
3. Stand there and **Follow Christ's lead**... **PAUSE**
What does that mean?... **first** (as said) - **huge grace!** - **might look like silence** (Jesus in sand) -buy some **time**... offer breathing **space**... - ie: room to see shared humanity (accuser/victim's **eyes to meet**)...

As a recovering homophobe - I've not done great job... but this week - CRC report - **[AGONY of body disparity/RICHARD]**... - who would choose this?... DR. N's lecture...**[6-8 weeks girls! (mullarian gland) TWIN studies...]** **[EGALE meeting- "EVIL"]**...

Maybe greatest grace - be to "Walk a mile in someone's shoes"... (Just like God did for you via incarnation/Christ..."While yet sinners!") **PAUSE**...

And never say anything?... Never broach subject re: what you think God's take on the gay lifestyle is?

PAUSE... here's where I struggle... part of me says - let **X's Spirit** do the talking... **convicting... (direct or via you John!)**... not sure but I do know the best place - for that to happen is in place of **relationship... humility, unconditional love**... so that when you speak - listener knows its coming from a friend... from a trusted place - from someone who want best for U!

Jesus had woman's ear after he saved her life!... the quality and **power of his love earned a hearing**... created instant trust... -- **PAUSE**... How do we create - this kind of **grace place?...** **how big - our unconditional love be?...** **time/space look like?**

Could it look like... **[Family taking next step- allowing a Gay brother/son - bring his partner to all family gatherings... no strings attached]**... **LONG PAUSE**...

[A Xn man befriending Gay man... walk in shoes!]
[A church in Canada... all dropping their stones as their hearts soften... do a 180... "We've been graceless judges... too quick to condemn ... for decades - we've abused you(lepers)... we're sorry can you forgive us? Take our hand/ & talk?]

How far does God's grace go?... **[IRONY- Grace so big that it looks like Relativism/all goes - yet only here can right conversation/space/tone be found... w/grace needed on both sides!... [Years Down road place]**... - talking pre-emptive grace move here (While we were yet sinners Christ died for us!)

Is God's heart that radically big? LONG PAUSE...

Makes me wonder if maybe the most NB character (adultery story) we need to live into!!... **JESUS!** (Heart of Father in Christ!) ...**A Father's heart... PAUSE..** Few times - asked self "**What if one of my children were gay?**" (after laughing at DS and gay look like?)

[Exegete FATHER grief at pain/suffering... hope... desire for wholeness] Desire for child to know - full acceptance!... (NOT - in relativistic way (cheap grace) - but in a real way (all selfless weight/wait & struggle)

How far is Father willing to go?... "**How far are you willing to go?**" ...for **renewed community?** so that an outsider(who you might consider messed up) can be included once more?

Once more- GOD's answer toward you - put aside Deity... take on human body... live with us!... And lay down life for his friends! (Jesus hung w/sinners... **prostitutes, leprous outsiders, crooks, judgmental churchy types** -- and **"He called us FRIENDS"**)

How far are you willing to go? **ER CLIP #2**

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To Throw the Stone

The Gospel of John 8 (The Message)

Jesus went across to Mount Olives, but he was soon back in the Temple again. Swarms of people came to him. He sat down and taught them.

The religion scholars and Pharisees led in a woman who had been caught in an act of adultery. They stood her in plain sight of everyone and said, "Teacher, this woman was caught red-handed in the act of adultery. Moses, in the Law, gives orders to stone such persons. What do you say?" They were trying to trap him into saying something incriminating so they could bring charges against him.

Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger in the dirt. They kept at him, badgering him. He straightened up and said, "The sinless one among you, go first: Throw the stone." Bending down again, he wrote some more in the dirt.

Hearing that, they walked away, one after another, beginning with the oldest. The woman was left alone. Jesus stood up and spoke to her. "Woman, where are they? Does no one condemn you?"

"No one, Master."

"Neither do I," said Jesus. "Go on your way. From now on, don't sin."

