

Drop that Stone!

(video transcript)

By *Karen Spiegelberg*

When I was a young kid, it was fun to collect stones from the nearby river bed or the quarry down the road. Some were smooth and round, and others were irregular, but shiny.

Welcome to A WORD for Women, a show by women and for women where we build each other up in our amazing and wonderful God given roles in life.

I've long since given up my stone collection and yet for some reason a collection of stones has gathered around me without my efforts. These, however, are stones I tend to cast in judgment of others. Especially those involved in more publicly "yuck" sins. You know, the sins that are really hard to imagine or fathom like sexual assault on a child, rape, or child pornography. Stories have surfaced this past year about a college coach involved in sexual assault of several young boys, priests or church leaders charged with possession of child pornography, etc.

For most of us our first response to these kinds of stories is, "Yuck!" We then kind of puff ourselves up and think, "I would never do something like that!" Our next response is to pick up a proverbial stone in quick and sure judgment of that person.

But STOP! Drop that stone!

Now take a journey with me to the Mount of Olives. Jesus was in the temple courts with many people gathered around him. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman who had been caught in adultery. No doubt a "yuck" sin in their eyes. They wanted permission from Jesus to stone her, and yet Jesus calmly replied, "If anyone of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." [John 8:7] Upon hearing this, the people started to go away. They knew! They knew that they were no better than the adulteress. They knew that they were sinful and sin filled as well.

I so appreciate the reminder from that story—that in my daily sin, no matter how small or insignificant I think it is, I'm just as guilty as the college coach in the news or the adulteress of Jesus' day. Although some sins are more public and will have earthly or criminal consequences, sin is sin. My daily sins condemn me just as surely as any "yuck" sins. But thanks be to God we're told in 1 Corinthians [15:57] that He gives me and you the victory of sin through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, whose blood washes every single last sin away.

Thank you for joining us on A WORD for Women...

Hmm, I think I'll drop all my stones now. Then I'll bury myself deep in prayer for the sinners in the news, and I'll make sure that the sinner in the mirror is in my prayers as well.



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