

We're back with a devotional and our latest news.



**Not by bread alone...**

I always find it interesting how the meaning of words can evolve over time and that happens with every language. Almost all of our words, over time, develop what we call a semantic range or a variety of meanings. Think of the word *trunk* for example. It can refer to a tree or an elephant or a car or something in your house where you store things. And I see this every day on the internet. For instance, *slammed* commonly referred to something like a door getting slammed shut, but now it commonly refers to people “slamming” other people. One of its meanings in the dictionary now is to “severely criticize someone.” Likewise, *ripped* commonly referred to a piece of paper or cloth that got ripped. Then it also came to mean being muscular or being drunk. But now it’s people “ripping” people with their comments.

So yesterday we were training high school students to weld out in the city of Montclair and I sat down with them after lunch and I asked them what they think causes most of the suffering in the world. Several hands went up and the answers were tornadoes, earthquakes, hurricanes, etc. Then I asked if they would be surprised to learn that research shows that over 90% of the suffering in the world is caused by what people do to people. That quickly made sense to them as I’m sure it does to you.

So, one of the spiritual lessons that I always include with each class of students at Reignite Hope is to discuss the idea of living your life like an umpire vs a lifeguard. Umpires are supposed to call things fair or foul, you’re safe or you’re out. Lifeguards, on the other hand, are supposed to rescue people. They aren’t going to stand on the beach and point out what you did wrong, but they will immediately dive into the water and help you.

Then we open the bible to John 8 where the religious leaders bring a woman to the temple, whom they’ve caught in the act of adultery, and cast her at the feet of Jesus to see what He thinks should be done with her. The religious law stated that she should be stoned for this (**Leviticus 20; Deuteronomy 22**), but at that time Rome ruled that land and the Romans did not consider adultery to be punishable by death. So John tells us in verse six, *“This they said to test Him, that they might have some charge to bring against Him...”* In other words, would He violate their religious law or violate Roman law? Seems like they have Him trapped, but how can you trap the Son of God!

So then Jesus looks at the crowd with stones in their hands and makes the absolutely remarkable statement—*“Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.”* Then John records that *“one by one”* they walked away. And after they were all gone, Jesus turned to the woman and said, *“Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”* She responds, *“No one Lord.”* The story then closes by Jesus saying to her, *“Neither do I condemn you; go and from now on sin no more.”*

Then I ask the students if they think Jesus acted like a lifeguard or an umpire toward the woman. Most of them usually answer that He was a lifeguard, which He certainly was, but I point out to them that He was also an umpire in telling her to “go and sin no more.” In saying *“Neither do I condemn you; go and from now on sin no more.”* Jesus was both! The woman needed both. You and I need both. And thankfully, Jesus is both the perfect umpire and the perfect lifeguard.

The religious leaders cared more about the law than they did the woman. She would have fully expected Jesus, this famous “teacher”, who would know every detail of the Law, to condemn her. But He takes her from certain death to life. Yes, Jesus cared about the Law, but He also cared about the woman. That needs to be our heart whenever we encounter someone who has done something wrong. Don’t diminish the sin, but surround it with grace. Surround it with love.

Hopefully we can all see ourselves in the woman. Our sin is no less than hers. Our need for forgiveness is no less than hers. Jesus didn’t want to stone her. He wanted to forgive her. He wants to forgive you too.

Now some read this story and find great comfort in Jesus’ compassion for the woman and others read it and are upset that she got off clean. Which are you? Is there anyone in your life right now that you want to throw a stone at? They might actually deserve it, but will you be the umpire or the lifeguard? Are you slamming and ripping people or are you loving and encouraging them? I think you already know what Jesus would do and what He would encourage you to do.

At Reignite Hope we have classes full of students who have plenty of people pointing fingers at them in their lives. They feel surrounded by umpires. Maybe you feel that way too? And we need a few umpires for sure, but we also need lifeguards. We all do. What we’ve found over the years is that our students don’t have very many lifeguards their lives. Yes, we point out areas in their life that need correcting, but we always try to do it with the heart of a lifeguard.

We don’t know, but hopefully this encounter with Jesus changed the woman’s life. Will you let Him change yours? He is just waiting for you to say yes.

**Impact Lives! Donate Now.**

## ReIGNITE Hope Hits the Road

ReIGNITE opens its Mobile Training doors in Fullerton and Montclair



San Bernardino County



Orange County

**At-risk High School Students at West Chaffey High School**

Twenty at-risk high school students are now attending welding classes in our Mobile Training Center. The principal, Tyrese Crawford, noticed the mobile trailer when parked in the RHCC parking lot. She dropped by to ask what it was all about. She wanted her vulnerable, at-risk students to have a hope of finding gainful employment once they graduate.

**Korean Americans and their Disadvantaged Neighbors in Fullerton**

We’ve partnered with Grace Community Services (GCS), a faith-based non-profit. Their mission is to show the love of Jesus Christ to the least, the last, and the lost. GCS serves the needs of Korean Americans and their disadvantaged neighbors throughout Fullerton and Orange County.

[View more](#)



South Bay Magazine features an article about ReIGNITE Hope, "Those in Need Blaze a New Future".

We were thrilled to be featured in this month's magazine. To view the full article, click [Southbay](#).



**44 Students Graduate and are Certified Welders**

Our Gardena class and our Mobile Fullerton class joined together on Certification Day. An AWS inspector, Che Chancy, volunteered to inspect and test their welds. All 44 graduated and are now certified welders.



**Second Mobile Training Center Underway**

Due to the huge demand, customization of a second semi-trailer is underway. We are grateful to the generosity of Rolling Hills Covenant Church for making this possible.

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Thank you for all your faithful prayers and support. Please pray our students realize that true wealth is found in Jesus Christ.

I'll keep you all updated and if you would like to contact me I can be reached by email at [steve@reignitehope.com](mailto:steve@reignitehope.com) or by phone at (310) 847-0593. Please let me know if there is any way that I can be praying for you during these challenging days in which we are living.

Have a Merry Christmas  
Love you All,  
