#### STONECATCHERS

A People of Mercy in a Cancel Culture

#### John 8:1-11

## Mercy is for the person in trouble, regardless of how they got there.

## As the family of Jesus, we do not participate in cancel culture.

#### BIBLICAL TEXTS:

Matthew 5:7
Ephesians 2:4-7
1 Peter 1:3
2 John 3
Joshua 20:1-4

"Your message really resonated with me because in my subconscious, I had cancelled myself. I have to give myself grace and mercy... everyday. Being kind to myself feels so much better."

Anonymous Gateway Attender

## Mercy catches stones and offers a canopy of forgiveness, love, compassion, and grace.

## Each of us are "more than the worse thing we have ever done".

Bryan Stevenson, Human Rights Attorney

### "I desire mercy..." Matthew 9:13

#### What is mercy?

- Mercy is active compassion toward others.
- Mercy is the moral response to a relational breach.
- Mercy is for people who don't have it all together.

## What effect does mercy have on our living?

- 1. <u>Breeds hope</u> because mercy says God's love is greater than fear of mistakes. (2 Peter 1:3)
- 2. Qualifies our witness because mercy gives life. (Ephesians 2:7)

## What effect does mercy have on our living?

- 3. Restores dignity to others and affirms their value. (Joshua 20:4; Luke 10:34-35)
- 4. Heals the broken heart and gives life. (Psalm 52:8; 2 Corinthians 1:3)

#### How do we give mercy?

- 1. Receive it.
- 2. Be a minister of Jesus' presence. (Joshua 20:4)
- 3. Humanize others. (Luke 10:30-35; 2 Corinthians 1:3; Jude 22)
- 4. Make mercy obvious and frequent. (John 8:10-11)
- 5. Don't rehearse past mistakes. (Joshua 20:4)
- 6. Wisely rebuild trust.

## "Blessed are the merciful" is impossible and only HIMpossible.

# What will our lives be like when the mercy we give others liberates them from the chains and burdens of their own prison?

## Each of us are "more than the worse thing we have ever done".

Bryan Stevenson, Human Rights Attorney