**Antigo Community Church – October 15, 2023**

**Title: Lines or Circles?**

**Text: John 7:53-8:11**

“In the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now, what do you say?”

“They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.”

 “But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger.”

“If anyone of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.”

Matthew 5:21-22

“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not murder, … But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment.’”

Matthew 5:27-28

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Do not commit adultery… But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.’”

Not only do your deeds count, but your thoughts and desires do too.

“At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first…”

“Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you? ‘No one, sir,’ she said. ‘Then neither do I condemn you,’ Jesus declared. ‘Go now and leave your life of sin.”

Jesus drew circles – Big Circles:

Romans 5:8

“God demonstrates his own love for us this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

2 Peter 3:9

“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

Jesus also drew Lines:

John 8:11

“Go now and leave your life of sin.”

John 5:14

“See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.”

Jesus never drew circles that ignored the reality of sin and the need for repentance.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

“Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you WERE. BUT you were WASHED, you were SANCTIFIED, you were JUSTIFIED in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”

Check your Attitude

Recognize your own Sin and need for Grace

Draw Circles

Draw Biblical Lines

Point them to the True Giver of Life - Jesus