



# BROKEN SIGNPOSTS

**Sermon-based Guide  
for Reflection and Discussion**

## Week of October 10

**Scripture:** **John 8:1-16** (primary text); Luke 4:16-20 (Call to Worship)

**Sermon Title:** *Broken Signposts: Justice*

### Summary:

In this section of John's gospel, we learn much about justice. Jesus defends the woman caught in adultery by reminding the men there that they are sinners. We are all sinners, which should keep us from the judgment of others. Jesus offers us his light here and is accused of not having authority – he is judged, and ultimately will bear our judgment. He claims that he can judge because he has been sent by the Father – yet, his judgment is taken rather than given. What would it mean as those who have been blessed by and recognize the grace of Christ to not simply walk away from judgment (as the scribes and Pharisees did) but with the grace of Christ, walked toward the accused and broken with the same grace and mercy we have received from Jesus?

### Key Sermon Points:

1. We have an innate longing for justice – for someone to set things right
2. We also do not have the necessary discernment to be able to weigh matters of justice (which leads to so much of our societal dissension)
3. Jesus rises above our human fragility to show us what the justice – and the mercy – of God truly looks like
4. The justice of Jesus always preferences those on the margins
5. We are called to offer the same blend of justice/mercy that Jesus does

### Questions:

1. In what way do you recognize in yourself an innate longing for justice ... a desire for someone to set things right? Share examples (like the playground scenario).
2. How do you define "justice" and/or "injustice"? Where do you see the world's form of justice competing with the justice of Jesus? What are the underlying values that contribute to the differences?
3. Consider our scripture account from the perspective of (1) the scribes and Pharisees (2) Jesus (3) the woman (4) the crowd gathered that day (5) the people gathered with you today. What do you notice? What emotions do you sense in the various perspectives? What is Jesus saying to you about justice and mercy as you consider these perspectives?
4. How, as a church, can we cultivate a capacity to discern matters of justice so that we can each grow in our ability to show mercy? Is there one area in your life or in the world where you would most want the justice of Jesus to come through? How will you pray about that?