

COMING TO TERMS

Starting Point Week 2

1. CALL IT WHAT IT IS: SIN.

“What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs--beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people's bones and all sorts of impurity” (Matthew 23:27 NLT).

2. EMBRACE THE LABEL.

“You have heard the commandment that says, ‘You must not commit adultery. But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart’ (Matthew 5:27-28 NLT).

3. RECEIVE FORGIVENESS

⁷ They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, “All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!” ⁸ Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust.

⁹ When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. ¹⁰ Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, “Where are your accusers? Didn’t even one of them condemn you?”

¹¹ “No, Lord,” she said.

And Jesus said, “Neither do I. Go and sin no more.” (John 8:7-11 NLT).

⁴⁰ But the other criminal protested, “Don’t you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die?

⁴¹ We deserve to die for our crimes”

“But this man hasn’t done anything wrong.”

⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.”

⁴³ And Jesus replied, “I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

(Luke 23:40-42 NLT).

Questions for Meditation & Conversation

From *Starting Point: A Conversation About Faith (Conversation Guide)*

1. Where have you experienced or observed the inadequacy of labeling something a *mistake*?

2. What do you associate with the word *sin*?

3. How do you respond to the consequences of having done something wrong?

4. What does the fact that Jesus was attracted to sinners say about Him?

5. What does it cost a person to acknowledge he or she is a sinner?

6. Do you resist the idea of being called a sinner? Why? Why not?

7. What, if anything, stands out to you about Jesus’ interactions with the woman or the criminal?

8. Do you think Jesus’ response to the criminal next to him was fair? Why? Why not?