

# Sitting in the Gap Study Guide – January 27, 2019

## [Luke 6:37-42](#) & [John 8:1-11](#)

(Click on scripture above to link directly to each passage in the *NRSV* on biblegateway.com.)

(Note: These texts are NOT of the given readings for this particular week in the Revised Common Lectionary. They were selected thematically to accompany Brethren Student Movement Sunday this week.)

### **Suggested Study / Prep**

1. Read the passage(s) in several different translations and/or paraphrases (e.g. *NRSV* and *The Message*)
2. Reflect on the provided questions
3. Generate your own questions and “wonderings”

### **Reflection Questions on Luke 6:37-42:**

1. This text is split up across two weeks in the Revised Common Lectionary – vv. 37-38 are the conclusion of the gospel reading one week, while 39-42 are the beginning of the next week’s gospel reading. Is anything lost in the separation of these sections? Are any insights gained or nuances highlighted by reading them together? What is the significance of the context of these words?
2. Are these teachings basically aligned with the concept of karma? Or are they different? How so?
3. Verse 40 seem a fairly random insertion into the midst of two related teachings about judgement and hypocrisy. How does it fit into its context?

### **Reflection Questions on John 8:1-11:**

1. While it may be a fairly familiar story, this scripture does not occur in the Revised Common Lectionary at all (It does occur in the Roman Catholic lectionary once every three years). Why do you think this story didn’t “make the cut”?
2. If the woman featured in this story was “caught in the very act of committing adultery” (v. 4) why is she the only one to be brought before Jesus? Why not her partner? What might this say about the implications of gender, justice, and equality in the world of the Bible as compared to the ethics and teachings of Jesus?
3. Twice during this encounter, we are told that Jesus bends down and writes on the ground (vv 6&8). What’s up with that? Clearly this act holds some significance in the story, but what could it be?
4. “Let the one without sin be the first to throw a stone.” (v. 7). Jesus’ answer to the “test” of the scribes and Pharisees is well known. But what does it say about moral responsibility and accountability? Is there no appropriate role for judgment for God or community in our lives? Or is the issue more with a particular application of such judgment?

**What questions do you have?**

**What do you “wonder” about when reading these passages?**