Restorative Approaches to Offenders / Ex-offenders

How do congregations give pastoral care to Offenders?



What do Offenders need?

A synopsis in four short stories



Where are your accusers?

Story I - John 8: 2-11

John 8: 2 - 11

- 2 And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them.
- 3 And the scribes and the Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst,
- 4 They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.
- 5 Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?
- 6 This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not.
- 7 So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, <u>He</u> that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.
- 8 And again, he stooped down, and wrote on the ground.
- 9 And they which hear it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.
- 10 When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her Woman, where are those thine accusers? Hath no man condemned thee?
- 11She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, <u>Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more</u>.

Acceptance Accountability

- Accept the person not their act
- Let the Judge be the judge
- Let the congregation 'give' acceptance
- Provide space for Accountability
- Let the offender 'take' responsibility
- Sometimes we get it wrong.
 - 1.6% exonerated
 - 4.1% estimated could be exonerated
- Sometimes we get it right.
 - Wilmington College staff





Ye Came unto Me

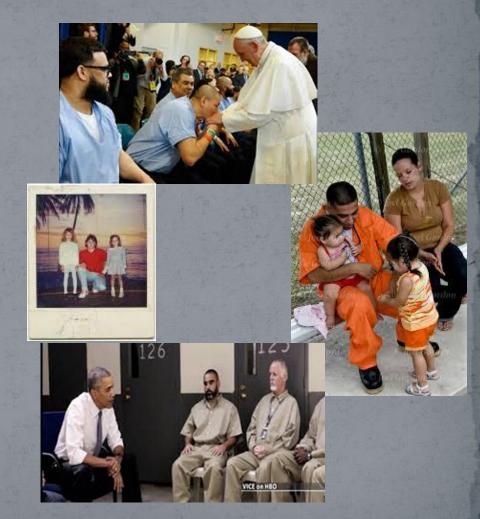
Story II - Matthew 25: 35 - 40

Matthew 25: 35 - 40

- 35 For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:
- 36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.
- 37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? Or thirsty, and gave thee drink?
- 38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?
- 39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?
- 40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

If these people can visit . . .

- Guidelines for ministry:
 - Provide resources
 - Establish relationship and networking opportunities
 - Become role models and mentors
- Awareness Retreat Team





Thy Brother is Come

Story III – Luke 15: 11 - 32

Luke 15: 18 - 24

- 18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,
- 19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.
- 20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.
- 21 And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.
- 22 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:
- 23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry:
- 24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

Luke 15: 25 - 32

- 25 Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew night to the house, he hear music and dancing.
- 26 And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant.
- 27 And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound.
- 28 And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out and entreated him.
- 29 And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends:
- 30 But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf.
- 31 And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine.
- 32 It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.

Returning Home . . .

- 97% of offenders will return to society
- NIMBY
- How do we receive
 offenders in our
 neighborhoods, in our
 churches and in our
 homes?
- Stone Church ministryMarti / Jason
- Dog Programs





"Bring my soul out of prison . . ."

Story IV – Psalms 142: 7

What do you see, now?

