

GOSPEL OF JOHN
THE WOMAN CAUGHT IN ADULTERY
JOHN 8:1–11

Introduction

I praise the Lord that we have a **wonderful, merciful, gracious** God! We have a God Who not only **knows us** and **understand us** like we are, but He even **loved us** when we were sinners and yet **He still provided for our salvation!**

Psalm 103:14—“For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.”

Romans 5:8—“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Now **we should know and understand that God never, ever condones sin!** There are many today that think that God will save people and then allow them to remain **IN** their wicked sin (in fact, there is a denial about whether what the Bible calls immoral lifestyles are really sin at all—and that’s the real problem! In fact, it flies in the face of our Holy, sinless, and Righteous God!)

It is not for us to say what is and what is not sin! It is not for the government to say what is and what is not sin! That rests solely with God! And God left us with His Word that is the Final Authority in the matter!

God doesn’t save a person to remain IN their sin, but rather, the Bible reveals that **God saves people FROM their sin!** True salvation changes one’s view about their sin! In fact, with true salvation comes a **desire to leave sin behind and cling to the righteousness that is only found in God alone!**

2 Corinthians 5:17—“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

When God moves into one’s life it changes things! It changes our attitude toward ourselves, our sin, and God! It changes our direction away from our sin and sinful ways toward God and His ways! It changes our life! Life is no longer about us, it is about Christ! He becomes our life!

Now, that does **not** mean that we will never sin and fall short of God’s glory ever again. But it does mean that when we do we can’t be comfortable there because we have God’s Holy Spirit living within that brings conviction!

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And if we fail to deal with sin as we should in our life as Believers, then the Bible reveals that **our Heavenly Father’s chastens us to direct us back to His holiness!** (*Hebrews 12:5-11*)

But having said all that, God knows what we are made of (this old sinful flesh) and He knows what we face in our lives day by day (the temptations, trials, and the tribulations).

As we look at the 8th chapter of John today, we find an immoral woman who had been caught in the very act of adultery by the Scribes and Pharisees and brought to Jesus to see if Jesus would have them follow the Law! It was another attempt to portray Jesus as a lawbreaker, which He was not!

READ THE SCRIPTURE!

I. WE SEE THAT JESUS HAD BEEN ON THE MT. OF OLIVES ON THIS PARTICULAR MORNING! (Vs 1)

The mount of Olives is located just to the east of Jerusalem. Scripture indicates that it was a place that Jesus would go to often.
Luke 22:39—“And he came out, and went, as he was wont, to the mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him.”

Do you think that Jesus knew what He was going to face that day? Don’t forget that Jesus is God in the flesh. The Scripture says that He knew what men were thinking and knew what was on their heart.

I have no doubt that Jesus knew what this day would bring forth and went out early to pray, to talk to His Heavenly Father about it!

II. WE SEE THAT JESUS WAS UP EARLY TEACHING AT THE TEMPLE AGAIN! (Vs 2)

Jesus was busy at the Temple, the house of God. People came to Him and He took the time to sit down and teach them!

Can you imagine someone deciding that they weren’t going to the Temple that day for some reason!?

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They would have missed out on what Jesus had for them!

Listen, Jesus is still busy at the house of God! And those that come to hear from Him, He takes time to teach them by His Holy Spirit!

But sadly, many folks miss out on what Jesus has for them on the Lord's day because they are not here to get it!

III. WE SEE THIS SINFUL WOMAN BROUGHT BEFORE JESUS!
(Vs 3)

We are not given what this woman's name was. She is simply called "*a woman taken in adultery.*" Her name may have been important for the gossipers. Enquiring minds may have wanted to know! But, she is known in Scripture—first by her sin, and secondly by what the Savior did for her!

A. We See Her Sin.

According to the Scribes and Pharisees, **this woman was caught in the very act of adultery.**

There seems to be **no question at all here of her guilt.** We see that **she offers no defense at all.**

But listen, adultery, while it is a vile sin, is no more or less a sin than any other sin!

James 2:10—“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.”

Don't forget that the Word of God reminds us that we are all sinners!

Romans 3:10—“As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:”

Romans 3:23—“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”

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B. We Sense Her Shame.

In the haste to bring this woman to Jesus, don't you wonder if these who caught her even gave her sufficient time to get properly dressed before they brought her into the Temple?

Now, we are not told, but ever how that may have been, we can understand that she was certainly **publically humiliated by this accusation and disclosure of her sin before both Jesus and these that Jesus was teaching.**

Sin is a shameful thing isn't it! Especially when it is found out!

There might be someone here today who is involved in some sin such that if it were suddenly revealed, would cause you great shame! Have you ever been there?

There are none of us who would want our sin exposed in such a way as hers was!

But listen, **no matter how skillfully our sin is hidden from the eyes of men, Jesus knows all about our sin already!**
Hebrews 4:13—“Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

Numbers 32:23—“...be sure your sin will find you out.”

C. We See Her Sentence. *(Vs 5)*

Now understand in this, Her accusers were absolutely correct! According to the Law, she deserved to die!

Now there was one small problem here on the Scribes and Pharisees part: **Where was this woman's partner in this adultery? She was caught in the very act, but so was the man she was with! Where is he?**

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Listen to the particulars of this law:

*Leviticus 20:10 – “And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, **the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.**”*

*Deuteronomy 22:22– “If a man be found lying with a woman married to an husband, **then they shall both of them die, both the man that lay with the woman, and the woman: so shalt thou put away evil from Israel.**”*

Both were supposed to die for this sin, but they only brought the woman! Even though she was taken in the very act of adultery, so the man WAS there when they took her!

We don't know, but quite possibly this woman was set up by her accusers so they could bring her before Jesus, but the man was given a pass for his part!

Yes, this woman was guilty and she deserved to die!
But, the man was guilty as well and he deserved to die too!

Nobody gets away with sin!
Ezekiel 18:4b– “...The soul that sinneth, it shall die.”

Romans 6:23a– “For the wages of sin is death...”

In their effort to humiliate this woman and to discredit the Lord Jesus Christ, they brought her to the best possible place.

They brought her to the very man who could deal with her past and her problems and who could make it all right!
After all, Jesus was going to die for her sin!

Don't ever think that Jesus doesn't care for you! He is the sinner's Friend! When we sin, we need to run to Him!

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WE SEE THIS SINFUL WOMAN BROUGHT BEFORE JESUS!
IV. WE SEE THESE SCHEMERS BOLDLY ACCUSE HER BEFORE JESUS! (Vs 3-9a)

A. We See They Had A Plan In This!

These men had it in their heads that they would put Jesus in a no win situation with this woman.

If Jesus simply let the woman go, then He would be in trouble with the Jews because He would be seen as being easy on sin and OK with someone breaking God's Law!

If He gave permission for the woman to be killed, then He would be in trouble with the Roman law where adultery was not considered a capital crime.

Not to mention that He would tarnish His reputation as being a *“friend of publicans and sinners.”*

These men couldn't have cared any less about this woman, her sin, her soul, or her eternal destiny. Jesus was their target!

B. We See They Had Some Problems In This!

Their plan might have succeeded with an ordinary man, but they were dealing with Jesus Christ Who was God in the flesh, and He simply refused to play by their rules!

When they tried to stump Jesus, They discovered that they had met their match.

Notice how He responded to their arguments.

1. Rather Than Answer Them To Begin With, He Ignored Them! (vs 6)

While they continued asking him the same question, the Lord, He just knelt down and began to write on the ground.

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The question everybody wants to know is, “*What did Jesus write on the ground?*” No one really knows!

Some have speculated maybe it was the 10 Commandments.

Others have speculated that maybe He wrote down a list of their sins they thought no one else knew about.

Whatever the Lord wrote on the ground, that, along with Jesus’ statement appears to have gotten their attention.

2. Jesus Exposed Their Own Hypocrisy! (Vs 7-9a)

When Jesus finally did speak, He said, “*He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.*”

And then Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground again!

At this point, all the pressing of Jesus for an answer came to a stop and all that could be heard was the shuffle of their sandals as they walked quietly away.

Let's at least give them credit for the fact that when they saw themselves as they really were, they stopped calling for the death of this woman.

V. WE SEE THAT ONLY THE SAVIOR REMAINED TO SPEAK TO THIS WOMAN!

A. He Asked Her Two Questions. (9b-10)

When the last of her accusers left, Jesus stood up and faced this sinful woman.

When she faced Jesus, she was facing the ultimate judge! She had reached a place in her life where it was just her and Jesus. And she addressed Him here as “**Lord**”!

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By the way, in the end, that’s what it all comes down to. Eventually, someday we are ALL going to have to face Jesus.

What one does with Jesus in this life will determine where and how they spend eternity!

B. Jesus Forgave Her! (vs 11)

The only One qualified to throw a stone refused to do so!
“*...Neither do I condemn thee...*”

It may appear to us that Jesus just let her get by with her sin, but that is not the case! We don’t know what was on her heart, but Jesus certainly did!

What we do know is this. Forgiveness requires faith in Christ, and true faith always involves genuine repentance...turning away from sin and to the Savior!

Jesus compassionately dealt with her on the basis of her faith! But note Jesus said to her, “*...Go and sin no more.*”

Jesus doesn’t pardon sinners to leave them as He found them. He pardons them to change them forever! He won’t save you and leave you in your sins! Along with His salvation comes a new life and liberty from sin’s dominion!

Jesus is hard on sin, but He is gracious to the repentant sinner!

Conclusion

Hebrews 4:15-16—“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. {16} Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

Jesus knows each of us today! He knows our struggles, our failures, our sins, and yet He loves us! His love is proved by what He did on the cross of Calvary! Are you ready for your face to face with Jesus?