

Truth & Grace for an Adulteress 2019-07-07

John 8:2-11

Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst they said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery.

Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground.

But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."]]

Notice brackets/footnote from John 7:53-8:11. Many New Testament scholars believe these verses were not in John originally.

- Solid men on both sides so translators were unwilling to remove the verses so put notation.
 - True to Jesus' character, man's condition, other Scripture, New Testament message:
 - God deals with guilty sinners on basis of grace and truth.

Judaism's 3 gravest sins (murder, idolatry, adultery) punishable by death.

- Adultery rarely punished: both must be caught in act. *John 8:2-6, Deuteronomy 22:22*

Humiliating and frightening...dragged her into crowded temple (probably some knew her), accused publically and knew she was guilty and would die painfully.

- Not really interested in woman, her sin, law (disregarded law: without man).
 - She was pawn/set up to trap Jesus and destroy his credibility.
 - Condemn to death (no love/Rome issue) or oppose Law Moses.
 - Either way discredit Jesus with people. *John 8:7-9, Deuteronomy 17:7, Matthew 7:1-5*

Not known what Jesus wrote, for whom, or why he wrote....many guesses.

- Jesus' message to accusers not what he wrote but what he says.....
 - Not deny her guilt or set aside/diminish law but presses law further:
 - 2 witnesses must be sinless in matter and "cast 1st stone".
 - Law never given to save but show sin > repentance.
 - Hypocrisy exposed, older left 1st but not repent (pressed for Jesus' death).

Religious just as guilty of sin as openly immoral....law condemns all sinners.

- Sins of religious not usually as violent but just as heinous.
 - hypocrisy, gossip, pride, judgmental, self-righteousness.
- Keep part of law but blatantly ignore/disobey other portions.
 - double standards: point out others sins and blind/overlook/deny own.

Jesus' pattern: Law to self-righteous, truth/grace to repentant. *John 8:10-11, 1:14, 17*

- He did not ask if she was guilty (he knew). But no witnesses = no legal charge/condemnation.

Augustine believed story omitted because suggests Jesus condoned adultery.

- Not teaching don't condemn sin or punish sinners. Matthew 18:15-20
 - Jesus judged/condemned her by law.... Disappointed them.
- Confront others wrong/sin in humility not self-righteousness. Matthew 7:5, Galatians 6:1

Jesus did not excuse/minimize/condone her sin but showed her both grace and truth.

- Grace that cared: "I do not condemn" Truth that confronted: "Sin no more."
 - No freedom if just grace with no truth and legalism if just truth.
 - Truth in Law reveals sin but can't offer grace/forgiveness.
- Father harmonized His holy justice and truth with His holy love and grace at the cross...He is just and justifier. *Gospel Romans 3:19-26*

Light of the World invaded her darkness. Guilty stood before guiltless, sinner/Savior

- No direct statement she repented but only way she could recognize Jesus was Lord was if Holy Spirit enlightened her. 1 Corinthians 12:3

Jesus deals with guilty sinners on basis of grace and truth and that is motivation for holy life. *John 8:11b, Romans 6:1-2, Titus 2:11-12*

- Jesus does not expect us to never sin again, but expects life-style to no longer be sinful.
 - Christians are free to not sin because Holy Spirit indwells and empowers.
- Christian - you have new identity because Jesus Christ dealt with you on the basis of grace and truth.
 - Not adulterer, drunk but son/daughter....now abide in Jesus Christ!

