

Woman Caught In Adultery – April 17, 2024

Told only in John 8. All about context. Look at John 7 – Jesus teaching, but they question:: How did He get such learning w/o taught? My teaching is from God.

He says: “Hasn’t Moses given you the law, yet not one of you keeps the law?”

Then: “I did one miracle – healed on the sabbath – why are you angry?”

Moses gave you circumcision & you can circumcise on the Sabbath but say the law of Moses is not broken. “Stop judging by mere appearances. Judge by what is right.”

(John 7:24)

Next morning, Jesus teaching in temple - Pharisees bring woman – stand/middle

“This woman was caught in the act of adultery. Moses commands us to stone such a woman. What do you say?” **They want to trap Him.**

- Staged event: adultery takes 2. “very act” ... Eager to humiliate the woman.
- They twist Moses’ law – Deut. 22
 - a. If woman found not to be a virgin, men of town must stone her at the door of father’s house. (stoned for promiscuous)
 - b. If a man sleeps w/wife of another . . . both man & woman must die.
 - c. If a man in town sleeps w/a virgin pledged to another, stone both of them.
 - d. If a man out in the country rapes a woman, only the man must die.
 - e. If a man rapes a virgin not pledged to another, he must marry her and pay 50 shekels of silver to her father.
 - i. **2d trap** – Roman law/Judea - Jews can’t carry out death sentence

He writes in the sand - they press Him – w/o sin cast 1st stone – writes again.

Conscience-stricken, they go away. Where are your accusers?

What can we learn?

- 1** - Stay in your own lane. Mind your own business.
 - a. We’re all guilty of sin. All in same boat... so can’t judge each other.
 - b. **Matt. 7:3** – “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?”
 - i. **Matt. 7:1-2** - “Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. ² For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged.”
 - ii. Hypocrite focuses on sins/failures of another
- 2** - Sin is between us/God... we violate God’s law.
 - a. **Psalm 51:4** – “Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight.”

- b. **Gen. 20:6** - God said to Abimelech in the dream, "Yes, I know that you did this with a clear conscience, & so I have kept you from sinning against Me. That is why I did not let you touch her."
- 3** - Moses makes all kinds of differences, God doesn't. **We shouldn't**
 - a. *"For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it."* – **James 2:10**
 - b. **We have no business making degrees of sin.** **Jesus – focus – love.**
 - i. **Matt. 5:27-28** – *You know the command: do not commit adultery. "But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart."*
 - ii. **Deut. 21:18-21** – Take rebellious son to city gate; stone him. Really??
 - iii. **Deut. 25:11-12** – Woman saves husband, grabs privates: cut off hand.
- 4** – They don't care about the woman, Jesus does.
 - a. Jesus offers her compassion & mercy; they want to crucify her. **Offer us**
 - i. Too often, religious people **point out** sinners... **publicly humiliate**... want to **punish**. Not needed... know we're failures, addicts, lost...
 - b. Jesus offers encouragement for a better life.
 - i. He doesn't condone what she did – "Go and leave your life of sin"
- 5** - Jesus saves people w/love, didn't condemn them. **We should follow Jesus**
 - a. **John 3:17** – *"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."*
 - b. They stand to humiliate her... Jesus kneels in compassion;
 - i. They have hate/hearts... Jesus/ love. They want murder... Jesus, love.
 - ii. They're focused on rules & ritual... Jesus looks at the heart.
 - iii. They're hung up on law of Moses... Jesus is hung on a cross w/love.
 - c. Jesus offers us forgiveness. . . and we all need it. He could throw stone.
 - i. **Put down your stone.** Where is your conscience?
 - ii. Don't you want forgiveness when you sin? Then forgive.

In this story – are you the Pharisee or the woman? We judging or feel judged?
 Jesus wants us to be woman.

Luke 15:7 – *"I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance."*

Hear Jesus's words: you are forgiven. You are loved. Put down stone.

Song of the week – "Mercy" – Ben Fuller