

Jesus Forgives an Adulterous Woman

John 8:1-11

Although the Romans ruled, they gave the Jewish religious leaders authority over their minor civil and religious affairs. The Jewish law required that both parties to adultery be stoned (Leviticus 20:10; Deuteronomy 22:22). In this passage the religious leaders (eager to rid themselves of Him) are using this woman to trick Jesus. If He says that this woman should *not* be stoned, they will accuse Him of violating Moses' Law. If He urges them to stone her they will report Him to the Romans, who did not permit the Jews to carry out their own executions (John 18:30-31).

Read John 8:1-11

v.3- Adultery is a vile sin, but it is no worse than any other. We are all as guilty as this woman. Look up: James 2:10

v.5- The Jewish leaders had already disregarded the law. The law which they were claiming required that both parties to adultery be put to death. The absence of her partner gives further enlightenment to their motive.

Nobody gets away with sin. The penalty of sin must be paid (Romans 6:23) .The only hope any sinner has is to flee to the arms of Jesus. He offers the only hope anyone has in this world. Look up: John 14:6

v.6- These men were attempting to trap Jesus in a theological dilemma. If Jesus simply let the woman go, then He would be seen as being easy on sin and could have been arrested for being in violation of the Law of Moses. If He gave acknowledgment that this woman should be killed, He could then be reported to the Romans who did not allow the Jews to carry out executions. They thought they had Him trapped.

Things haven't changed. These religious men are just like legalists in our day. They didn't care about this woman, her sin, her soul, or her eternal destiny. All they cared about was pressing their agenda, and their brand of righteousness.

Knowing full well the intent of those bringing this woman before Him, what is Jesus' reaction? What principle can we learn from His response? Look up: Acts 24:12, James 1:19

v.7 - Jesus isn't requiring that any judge be sinless. If that were the case then no human would ever be able to render a judgment in any matter, in any court of law. Look up: Romans 13:1-5

Jesus upheld the legal penalty for adultery. He could not be accused of being against the Law. But He also highlighted the importance of compassion and forgiveness.

v.8 - Whatever the Lord wrote on the ground was witnessed by these men, and unknown to us. In the same way, the Lord knows how to speak our hearts (both in conviction and celebration) unbeknownst to others.

v.9 – Evidently the older men were more aware of their sins than the younger. Age and experience often diminish youthful self-righteousness. Are you wise beyond your years? Look up: Psalm 25:7, Proverbs 20:29

v.10 - With her accusers gone, there was no one left to condemn the woman, and Jesus Himself did not condemn her. In the same way, there is no condemnation for those who are in Jesus. Look up: Romans 8:1-2

Jesus called her "woman". A term He used two other times in the Gospel of John; once in 2:4 and again in 19:26. Both times it was applied to His mother Mary. It would be equivalent to the respectful term "Ma'am". It was a term of honor given to a woman worthy of honor. This woman was anything but a "woman". But, Jesus did not see this woman as she was, He saw her as she could become through Him.

v. 11 – Jesus is the only one the world has ever known who is qualified to take up the first stone. 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. Eventually, someday we all will have to face Jesus. Someday every knee will bow. Look up: Romans 14:10-12