

NEITHER DO I CONDEMN YOU

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Key verses: John 8:1-11

John 8:1-11 ESV

¹ but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. ² Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them.

³ The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst ⁴ **they said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery."** ⁵ Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So **what do you say?"** ⁶ 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.

⁷ 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."** ⁸ And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground.

⁹ 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. ¹⁰ Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

¹¹ She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, **"Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."**

THE WOMAN CAUGHT IN ADULTERY

Let's talk about –

1. The woman
2. The Jewish leaders
3. The gospel message

1. The woman

John 8:1-6

The scribes and Pharisees brought her to Jesus to trap him because he exposed them. If he said yes, he would have been in trouble because he would have needed Roman permission. How do you apply grace and uphold the law?

What would you say to her?

Only the gospel can solve this dilemma.

They embarrassed her and declared her sin publicly.

Where is the man? She carried the blame and the shame. Why is this picture so familiar today?

How do we see and treat women in our families, homes, church and Africa?

What's our attitude towards women?

Jesus treats her with respect. He doesn't embarrass her. There are many other women in the Scriptures, including the New Testament. Sometimes he told them things before he told others. He travelled with women and was supported financially by women. Women flocked to Jesus then and even today. Christianity has been the greatest liberation movement in the world for women.

We need to appreciate, protect and encourage women in their gifts. They are the relational glue that holds things together.

Honour the women in your family. Go home and wash the feet of your wife. The teaching of Jesus is what liberated women in the Ancient world.

2. The Jewish leaders

The Jewish leaders were applying Deuteronomy 22. Jesus answered them from Deuteronomy 17. He was in effect saying, 'Make sure you've never wanted to commit adultery yourself.' One by one they left, convicted and condemned. She was left there, convicted and forgiven.

They did not care about her. As leaders, they should have asked, "Why are you doing this, what can we do, and how can we help you?"

Their conscience was troubling them. You need to listen to and obey your conscience if you're a Christian.

We're washed on the inside and have our conscience cleansed.

It's not just about breaking the law, but breaking God's heart – it's relational. Morality flows from godliness. The essence of sin comes from ungodliness. When lawlessness increases, then we need state involvement.

Christians must stand up because we're salt and light: a scattered presence and a focused presence.

We can be law abiding but have no grace. Legalists targets women.

A bad conscience is someone who lives below the line – you need to get saved.

A weak conscience lives above the line - you put yourself higher than God. No. You're accepted in Christ. Why should my liberty be influenced by someone else's conscience?

A good conscience lines up with word of God.

Need to have a good conscience and show mercy.

Jesus came in grace and truth. Need both together. Jesus showed both.

3. The gospel

Let's talk about the gospel. We are trying to establish a gospel-centred, Jesus-centred culture at Christian Centre.

The Gospel always starts with God not you. It's not just the content but the order. What God has done, then what you must do. It starts with forgiveness. Our repentance flows from his forgiveness. We obey because we're accepted.

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Read Luke 7:36-50

³⁸ and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment.

Jesus told the story of forgiveness then He said to the Pharisee who was judging her, "Do you see this woman?"

⁴⁴ Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. ⁴⁷ Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." ⁴⁸ And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

Her love was the consequence not the cause. Forgiveness comes first before obedience. It's how we get free from things that have had a hold on our lives.

Jesus forgave. He also calls for obedience: go and sin no more. Stop this lifestyle that you're living. Our response should be, "I love you so much that I'm going to change my lifestyle."

To be able to forgive her cost Jesus the cross. He didn't condemn her because he was condemned. Jesus was punished, smashed and crucified. He is faithful and just.

A sanctified community needs to be bathed in the forgiveness of God.

She saw what the leaders were trying to do and what Jesus said. We must preach free forgiveness and free grace. Preach NT holiness that people say its radical to be a Christian. Jesus removed her son and healed removed her shame. Guilt is what you've done. Shame is what you've become.

You get shamed on social media. Starts with feeling unacceptable. I'm a failure. Name our shame in order to tame it. Guilt lives in the courtroom. Shame lives in the community. Jesus deals with our guilt and our shame.

We need forgiveness from sin and healing from shame.

Isa 53: He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. He paid for our sins was crushed for our brokenness. He picked it up and carried it.

Jesus died a shameful death. He was crucified naked in front of his mother.

Give it to Jesus!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How have the Scriptures and the gospel helped to shape your attitude towards women? Where did/do you perhaps need adjustment? Look to God and make the adjustment.
2. Do you think you have a bad conscience (**below God's standards or Scripture**), weak conscience (above Scripture), or good conscience (loving what God loves and hating what He hates)? Read Romans 2:14-16.
3. Notice the order of the Gospel in John 8:1-11. Is that how you see the gospel? Remember it's in that order because Jesus died for her sins so he could extend forgiveness to her.