

## **Bibles???**

### **The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority**

Turn your bible with me to John 8

This morning we are going to look at Jesus' encounter with an adulterous woman.

Let's pray...

We left off our study last week with Fest of Tabernacles coming to an end.

And we saw over the last few weeks in ch 7, that Jesus used the feast to make another claim to being the Messiah -

His claim led to division among the multitudes, but also division among the religious rulers – you might remember that they accused Nicodemus, one of the Pharisees of being a Galilean – of switching teams, of being a traitor, of being a hillbilly.

So everyone folded up their tents – and John tells us that they went back to their own homes –

All except Jesus.

**[Jhn 8:1-12 NKJV] 1 But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.**

I believe that Jesus went to the Mt of Olives for some alone time with the Father, a time to recharge, a time to reenergize – this was His scheduled devotional time.

You see, Jesus was faithful in the little things – He was prepared for what was up ahead.

He was prepared for what was going to transpire in chapter 8, because of verse 1, spending time alone with the Lord, spending time alone with His Father.

You see church, the ministry of Jesus as John and the other gospel writers have demonstrated is full and fast.

Jesus has a schedule to keep, He had divine appointments with individuals left, He only has a limited amount of time left with His disciples.

So we ask ourselves this morning - how did He pay attention to the details –

Even in our own lives, we see how full our own schedules are, we see how many things we have to accomplish, how many places we have to go, how many demands are placed upon us.

There are so many things to do, so many things to finish.

So the question is – how do we prepare ourselves?

How do we prepare for tomorrow?

How do we prepare for this afternoon?

Church, it can only be done with regular devotional time with the Father.

There is no other way.

We need to look at everything through Father filtered eyes – knowing that He is sovereign and has a specific purpose for our lives – and the only way we are going to know it and not miss all the details is by having daily devotional time.

It's a powerful thing to ready ourselves for tomorrow

It's a powerful thing to ready ourselves for today

Right now, the Spirit of God is moving upon the hearts of those that don't know Him.

He is moving among those that we work with, those that we live with, those that we meet at the store.

God is on the move right now, and it is important that we prepare ourselves to be ready for it.

To be used as tools in His hands

And if we are not prepared – we are going to have many missed opportunities.

**2 Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them.**

So Jesus gets up and heads to the temple the next day.

And the multitude, many of those that had heard Him speak the day before – they gathered around Him and Jesus taught them.

Mark tells us in his gospel that the common people heard Him gladly (Mark 12:37)

They received from Him

They wanted more.

Church

The more we spend time in the Word of God, the more we develop an appetite for it.

The more we develop a thirst for the Word of God

The more we learn that we can't live without the direction of God through His word.

And so here John tells us, that as Jesus was teaching, more and more were gathered to Him –

**3 Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery.**

**And when they had set her in the midst, 4 they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act.**

So as Jesus is teaching – chaos erupts.

The religious leaders barge in – interrupt Jesus' teaching

And they thrust this poor woman in front of not only Jesus – but the multitude of people that had gathered around Jesus.

I want you to think about something really quick –

This woman was caught in adultery

Her sin is being exposed to the multitudes – think about the shame

She is moments away from suffering the judgment of the religious rulers.

So what could have easily been the worst day of her life actually turns out to be the very best day of her life – for the very fact that the religious rulers brought her in the midst of Jesus Christ

Their motive wasn't to bless her

As a matter of fact, we can learn from the text that the religious rulers could care less about this woman.

They used her

They took advantage of her vulnerability

They abused her like many men had before.

When the religious rulers were looking for a woman to trap Jesus – they found her.

And I believe they found her for a reason.

She had a reputation – like that of the Samaritan woman by the well that Jesus met – and ministered to, and gave hope to, and salvation.

Remember, she was at the well in the middle of the day – because she didn't want to face the other woman of her village.

She wanted to avoid their looks, she wanted to avoid encountering some of the families that her sexual sin had wrecked and destroyed.

So, here we have this woman that is being used by the religious rulers to set Jesus up.

This woman was caught in adultery, in the very act.

Meaning they'd apprehended her in the embrace of some guy.

They'd dragged her out of bed to bring her to Jesus.

We don't even know if she is wrapped up or covered – think about the humiliation she is going through.

By the way,

Where is the guy?

Where is the guy?

If the woman "caught in the very act", why didn't they bring the guy as well?

Could it be that the guy was part of the plot to catch the woman, and bring her to Jesus?

This is a set up!

**5 "Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?" 6 This they said, testing Him, that they might have [something] of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with [His] finger, as though He did not hear.**

The religious rulers have decided that they don't like Jesus.

We have seen from our studies that they wanted to kill Him.

He exposed their hypocrisy over and over again.

So the religious rulers are going to try and find some sort of flaw in Jesus to hang their hats on and have Him run out of town.

They want something to accuse Him.

Now, one of the things they know about Jesus is that He had a reputation of forgiving sinners.

Luke tells us about the paralytic man that his friends lower him from the rooftop (Luke 5:20)

And Luke tells us that When Jesus saw their faith, He said to him, “Man, your sins are forgiven you.”

Now the law was very clear against adultery –

Turn with me to Lev 20:10

**[Lev 20:10 NKJV] 10 'The man who commits adultery with [another] man's wife, [he] who commits adultery with his neighbor's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress, shall surely be put to death.**

Here's the trap/test:

If Jesus says she should be forgiven – like He did to the paralytic man, then He's going against the Law of Moses.

If Jesus says she should be stoned, then He's going to look like a hypocrite.

By dragging this woman before Jesus with such a clear-cut prescription from the law on what was to be done with her, they hoped to place Him in a situation where His teaching about the mercy & compassion of God would be shown to be nothing more than empty words.

Now, as we just read in Leviticus – both the adulterer and the adulteress should have been put to death.



So the religious rulers, had every right according to the law, after all, they were the strict keepers of the law.

So why didn't they do it?

If justice was so important to them, why drag her to Jesus?

Because justice was not their concern – their concern was simply to trap Jesus.

How did Jesus respond –

He stooped down and wrote on the ground. (we will come back to this in a little bit)

**7 So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first."**

The religious rulers continued to press Jesus until He stood up and told them to commence the stoning –

"You guys are right – she must be stoned - go for it –

but here the things guys - I am going to appoint the executioners – and in order to be qualified – you must meet the following

if there is anyone among you who is without sin – "sinless", you can be the first one to step forward and throw the first stone.

Did you know – that there was only one person that was able and qualified to pick up that first stone – and He chose not to.

Now, Jesus here is not saying that one cannot confront sin unless he or she is sinless. If that was the case, one could never carry out the law.

What Jesus is doing here is he is forcing the scribes and Pharisees to examine their own hearts before they carry out the law.

In doing so, He exposes their corruption and their inability to keep the law.

Yes, the act of adultery was punishable by death.

The scribes and pharisees were right. But, are they without sin here?

Are they keeping the law by bringing just the woman?

No. Are they, therefore, blameless and without sin in their pursuit of “justice?” No.

**8 And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 Then those who heard [it], being convicted by [their] conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest [even] to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.**

What did Jesus write on the ground that morning – we don't know, it wasn't reserved for us.

We have some hints about what Jesus wrote.

It appears that whatever He wrote – it was directed at the religious rulers that brought the woman.

We know that whatever He wrote, it convicted them by what they heard and what they saw. We see this in verse 9.

Did He write their names down one by one and then next to their names, did He write all their secret sins – in front of the crowd that was there?

Today, Jesus wouldn't need to write on the ground.

He simply would say, "Let's play the video of so and so, the accuser"

It would be a video of that person's life – not the life that we see, it would be all the behind the scene things that we tend to hide because we are proud and we like to think of ourselves as better than the other person.

That is what is happening here.

And the really sad thing church is – that one by one, beginning with the oldest to the youngest, they got up and left.

That was their response to conviction – they got up and left.

You see, I believe that they could have stayed with the woman and receive the same grace and forgiveness that she is about to receive.

But because of their pride and their arrogance, their distance from God and their unwillingness to admit that they have sinned, their unwillingness to admit that they have wronged, their unwillingness to humble themselves.

The bible says that God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble. (Peter and James)

And so here, we have the proud walking away – and the only one left in the midst of Jesus is the humble woman who was caught in the act.

**10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?"**

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

Here we see a beautiful example of Jesus demonstrating compassion, sympathy and patience toward sinners.

He is showing to this woman, the same grace that He shows to you and me today.

Many of us may never know what this woman experienced.

We may not have been caught in such a sin that is painful, hurtful and exposed as this woman did.

But the bible says that we have all sin and fall short of the glory of God

It is important to understand church – that, Jesus is not being soft on this woman.

He is not looking the other way –

He alone had the right to condemn this woman.

He is the Sinless One, the only One who fulfilled the qualifications to stone.

But He did not do so.

When you ask why, it is clear that it was because He forgave her sin.

Without forgiveness, justice must be satisfied.

God never waves his hand and dismisses sin as though it is of no account.

Jesus knows that in a very short time, He is going hang on a Roman cross and take this very sin of adultery upon Himself, so that the forgiveness can flow from His blood that was shed for this woman, that was shed for you and me – and that was shed even for those that walked away.

Why did she receive forgiveness and grace? – because she stuck around.

Because she remained in His midst.

Now, one of the tragedies that is often overlooked in our text – is that of the adulterer.

The woman's sin was exposed and brought before Jesus – however, the man was able to remain in hiding.

It seems like he got off the hook – he was able to escape judgement.

The man was able to go home to his wife and kids, continuing on living in darkness, hiding his corruption from others.

I want you to understand that this man did not escape judgment. Although he thought he could hide, his sin was on full display before God.

But, this woman's deep dark secrets were exposed, and she stood before Jesus condemned. Yet, this woman walks away not condemned. She walks away forgiven and justified.

Because of the cross, the sinner who comes to Jesus broken and empty handed can walk away a new creation, forgiven and cleansed by the blood of Jesus.

Because of the cross, men and women like you and I and the woman in this story, can one day stand before God, holy and blameless and above reproach.

So the question we must ask ourselves this morning is –

Who do we identify with?

The woman in our text –

Because in the spirit of the law, we are all adulterers and murderers and liars.

We are all guilty

We have all been unfaithful

The question is – do we want to be forgiven or do we want to continue to live in darkness?

I want to be forgiven

I want the forgiveness of God in my life

I want the empowerment of God to forsake those things that have held me bondage and live free in the days I have left to serve Jesus

And He will give it to us – where there is real repentance. Just like he did to woman here in chapter 8.

Do we identify with the religious rulers –

Are we the legalist – do we rejoice when some falls –

Or do we identify with Jesus Christ –

Do we show compassion and grace to those who fall.

Turn to Gal 6

**[Gal 6:1 NKJV] 1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who [are] **spiritual restore** such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.**

Who are those that are spiritual (the church)

And the church is called to restore – the word that is used here for restore is the word to reset a broken bone.

So we help them get back on their feet, we encourage them, we pray for them.

We bandage them up

We do this because that is exactly what Jesus did.

Jesus is the friend of sinners.

He loves them & wants to see them come to repentance & faith.

We are not to judge one another.

We must be cautious about being critical & condemning.

As long as we are walking in repentance & demonstrating a desire to follow the Lord, we must support one another.

People are precious to God – therefore they must be precious to us.

We must value them like God values them

Our church, our community, the places where we work, where we study are filled with people that have needs

Let's do our best to serve them



And whatever the Lord is leading us to do, let us do it carefully and prayerfully

Amen

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

We are here by the grace of God

But we must also remember that we are here to extend the grace of God to one another.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace!

