**Jesus and the Adulteress**

**John 8:1-11**

**Intro:**

V 1 – “*but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives*.”

* The ‘but’ of 8:1 is ‘after’ the tumult Jesus has endured in chapter 7.
* The Mount of Olives suggests he spent the night in prayer

V 2a – “*Early in the morning he came again to the Temple*.”

From birth to life, Jesus had a unique relationship with the Temple

Matthew 12:6 – *I tell you, something greater than the temple is here…*

Our focus last week was on the environment in which this incident takes place; the Temple – the place where -

1. People meet God
2. Sin is forgiven
3. A people are created and renewed

What the Pharisees and scribes are going to attempt is wholly contrary to God’s purpose for the Temple.

V2b – “*All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them*.”

Vs 1-3 is the context in which vs 4-11 take place.

**First: Who are the Pharisees and Scribes. 3**

This is the only place in John’s Gospel where the writer mentioned the scribes and Pharisees together

1. “Pharisee” = separatist and that says a lot.

God created the world to be in it.

He created A&E out of the ground.

He invaded it when A&E sinned.

He built the Tabernacle/Temple to be with his people

He came personal throughout the OT and in Jesus, in the NT

He is redeeming the world, renewing it to make it our ultimate home where He and we will together live forever

A “separatist” mindset is contrary to God’s heart. We are not ascetics who withdraw from the world to maintain holiness. Instead, we hope to see the world transformed by our interaction.

Between 165 BC to AD 70, the Pharisees were a school of thought that held oral tradition (the unwritten Torah) equal to Scripture. This eventually codified itself into the Talmud; Pharisaic interpretations of the OT.

1. Scribes were educated men whose business was to study the law, copy it and write commentaries son it.

Like the Pharisees, the scribes went beyond interpretation of Scripture, however, and added many man-made traditions to what God had said. They became professionals at spelling out the letter of the Law while ignoring the spirit behind it.

The law, ‘plus,’ or the law, ‘minus.’

A lot of Jesus’ teaching deconstructed the Pharisees and scribes teaching

Matthew 5:21 – “*You have heard that it was said to those of old*…”

V 33 – “It was also said…”

V 33 – “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old…”

Ultimately, Jesus condemned the Pharisees and scribes –

Matthew 5:20 - *…unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.*

Matthew 22:29 - *But Jesus answered them, “You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God.*

Matthew 23:3 - *Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples,****2****“The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat,****3****so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice.*

**Second: The Charge. 3-5**

V 3-5 - *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?”*

Adultery is a capital case in Israel but…

1. The standard of evidence was very strict -

* Two witnesses
* Perfect agreement
* Had to see the act

*“The actual physical movements of the couple must have been*

*capable of no other explanation…. conditions were so stringent*

*that they could have been met only on rare occasions.”*

* Leon Morris

*“Under these conditions the obtaining of evidence in adultery*

*would be almost impossible were the situation not a setup.”*

* James Montgomery Boice

1. The Law

Leviticus 20:10 - *If a man commits adultery with the wife ofhis neighbor, both the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death*

Deuteronomy 22:22 - *If a man is found lying with the wife of another man, both of them shall die, the man who lay with the woman, and the woman.*

The onus/responsibility appears to rest with/on the man.

The obvious question in this situation is, “Where is the man?”

Jesus stands in the place of the man, (just as Joseph did for Mary) in this case, as he does for us also.

Isaiah 53:5 – *But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.*

2 Corinthians 5:21 - *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

1 Peter 2:24 - *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.*

He did not simply die for us. He died as us.

**Third: The Real Reason. 6**

***6****This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him.*

1. If Jesus advocated for the woman, the Pharisees and scribes could charge Him violating the law.
2. If He recommended executing her, He would contradict His own reputation for being gracious and forgiving (cf. Luke 5:20; Luke 7:47).
3. Either decision might also get Him in trouble with the Roman authorities (cf. John 18:31).

**Fourth: What did Jesus Write? 6b & 8**

6b - *Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground.*

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

No one knows.

**Fifth: What did Jesus Say? 7**

V 7 -  “*Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.”*

Several sins resulted in stoning in the Old Testament:

1. murder (Leviticus 24:17),
2. idolatry (Deuteronomy 17:2–5),
3. approaching near to Mount Sinai while the presence of God was there (Exodus 19:12–13),
4. practicing the occult (Leviticus 20:27),
5. blaspheming the name of the Lord (Leviticus 24:16) and
6. various types of sexual sin

The Mosaic Law specified that, before anyone could be put to death by stoning,

1. there had to be a trial, and
2. at least two witnesses had to testify
3. the witnesses had to throw the first stone

Deuteronomy 17:6-7 - *On the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses the one who is to die shall be put to death; a person shall not be put to death on the evidence of one witness.****7****The hand of the witnesses shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hand of all the people.*

*Don’t miss this application: Jesus is also our Advocate*

*1 John 2:1-2 - My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.****2****He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.*

**Sixth: The Crowd’s Response 9**

V 9a - *But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones,*

1. *If they stoned her, they claimed to be sinless*
2. *If they stoned her, they claimed to be guiltless*

*Adultery is a big deal in the Bible…but what about murder? That is what these men were about to do.*

1. *Their leaving was an acknowledgement of their sin and guilt*

V 9b - *and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him.*

I love this. In Eden, God spoke to Adam and not Eve. Why? A man was responsible and…a man (Jesus)was going to take responsibility.

Here, Jesus addresses a daughter of Eve about her sin, forgiveness and his purposes for her.

**Seventh: Jesus and the Adulteress. 10-11**

Vs 10-11 - *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.”*

1. Jesus did not ask her if she was guilty. She was.

*Law and grace do not compete with each other; they complement each other. Nobody was ever saved by keeping the Law, but nobody was ever saved by grace who was not first indicted by the Law. There must be conviction before there can be conversion.*

– Warren Wiersbe

1. He had invested more time with her prosecutors than her.
2. Without prosecutors, he dismissed the case.
3. He was the only witness left and the law requires two.
4. Only he remained because only he is sinless.
5. Jesus is, indeed, the Greater Moses.
6. He is also the ‘end of the law for everyone who believes” (Ro 10:4)
7. He did issue her a warning

1 John 2:1-3 - *My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.****2****He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.****3****And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.*

**Conclusion:**

There are many places that we see Jesus’s heart, but this passage displays the heart of Jesus for sincere people, as well as his concern for insincere people.