

**Text:** John 8:1-11

**Meaning:** Jesus showed grace to a sinful woman

**Big Idea:** Jesus extends grace to those come humbly to Him

**Objective:** Experience God's grace

**Theme:** Case Dismissed

## CASE DISMISSED

### JUDGES ROBE AND GAVEL

#### 1 John 2:1

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.

#### Colossians 2:13-15

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup> by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

**Justified** – means that we are no longer guilty of the crimes of sin against the Lord because of our faith in Christ. Christ's stood in our place on that cross and paid for our crimes before the Lord, so now the charges against us have been dropped.

WHEN THE FATHER LOOKS ACROSS THE BENCH OF HEAVEN HE DECLARES "CASE DISMISSED!"

In John 8 we see a woman who was caught in the act of sin, yet Jesus extends her incredible grace, and in this encounter we learn much about the grace that the Lord shows great sinners like us as well in the gospel.

#### READ JOHN 7:53-8:11

Is the story of the woman taken in adultery a part of Scripture? If it is, where does it belong in the Gospel record? John 7:53–8:11 is not found in some of the ancient manuscripts; where it is found, it is not always in this location in John's Gospel. Most scholars seem to agree that the passage is a part of inspired Scripture ("a fragment of authentic Gospel material," says Dr. F.F. Bruce) regardless of where it is placed.

To many of us, the story fits right here! In fact, the development of the entire chapter can easily be seen to grow out of this striking event in the temple. Our Lord's declaration on His being the Light of the world (John 8:12) certainly fits, and so do His words about true and false judgment (John 8:15–16, 26). The repeated phrase "die in your sins" (John 8:21, 24) would clearly relate to the judgment of the woman; and the fact that the chapter ends with an attempt to stone Jesus shows a perfect parallel to the opening story. The transition from John 7:52 to 8:12 would be too abrupt without a transitional section.<sup>1</sup>

**TEST** – speaks of entrapment in the Greek. They are trying to trap Jesus so that he incriminates himself. If he says not to stone her then he commits a crime against Jewish law. If he says to stone her then he incites a riot and commits a crime against Rome.

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<sup>1</sup> Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 319.

In His answer Christ turns the responsibility back to the crowd and they have no reply – DON'T YOU KNOW CHRIST HAS ACED EVERY TEST!

There are a lot of people who put God to the test – who claim God has to prove himself in order for them to believe – friend be careful, because you're going to be left with a lot of embarrassment in the process.

**Proverbs 21:30**

No wisdom, no understanding, no counsel can avail against the LORD.

The weapons of the enemy – guilt, shame, accusation, condemnation – have all been taken away through the grace of Christ!

Deuteronomy 22 and Leviticus 20 – CALL FOR THE EXECUTION OF THE MAN AS WELL AS THE WOMAN!

**WHERE IS THIS COWARD OF A GUY?**

Mankind has been trampling on woman since the beginning of time! We continue to do it today!

When we take up for **ABUSERS** and COVER UP ABUSE – we trample on women.

When we **INDULGE IN PORNOGRAPHY**, we trample on women

When a tall strapping athletic young man throws on a woman's **SWIMSUIT**, grows his hair out, says he is a girl, and we allow him to compete in women's swimming – WE TRAMPLE ON WOMEN

When a man has a sex change operation, and throws on a little makeup and a dress and we throw him on the cover of **TIME AND SPORTS ILLUSTRATED** – we trample on women

**MEN – It's time to stop trampling on women!**

**DON'T BE A COWARD!**

Respect women, be kind to women, be courteous to women, value women – treat them as the princesses they are. That's not old fashioned, that's how God fashioned it!

We have got to teach our young men this unashamedly and stop worrying about what society thinks about it.

**JESUS LEADS WITH GRACE**

The crowd led with CONDEMNATION AND ACCUSATION – Jesus Led with GRACE!

Jesus here leads with grace and follows with growth. Jesus always leads with GRACE!

In this is love – not that we loved God but that He first loved us and sent Jesus to die for us

God shows us his love in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us

One would scarcely die even for his own friends, but Christ died for us as sinners

It is His LOVE that draws us to repentance!

Some of you have been taught throughout your life that CHRIST ALWAYS LEADS WITH FEAR AND ANGER AND CONDEMNATION AND JUDGMENT. THAT IS NOT WHAT SCRIPTURE TEACHES! Yes – Christ is holy. Yes, our sin is an egregious affront to His holiness. Yes, the wrath of God awaits those who reject Christ – BUT CHRIST FIRST CAME TO BIND UP THE BROKENHEARTED AND TO SET THE CAPTIVES FREE!

The Pharisees here paint the picture that Justice and Mercy cannot exist – the opposite is actually true – IN CHRIST WE HAVE THE PERFECT COMBINATION OF BOTH MERCY AND JUSTICE!

BUT HE ALWAYS LEADS WITH GRACE FOR THE BROKEN!

If today you're broken and hurting and ashamed and feel unforgivable – you're exactly who Jesus died to rescue! He wants to rescue you with his love and grace today!

### **JESUS CALLS US TO GROWTH**

Christ looks at the woman caught in adultery now caught up in His grace and says to her – "GO AND SIN NO MORE"

He is not calling her to a sinless life – He is calling her to a new WAY OF LIFE.

Scripture says we are slaves to that which we obey, so if we indulge in sin we become slaves to sin.

### **Romans 6:11**

So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

We must present ourselves as slaves of righteousness. In other words I am graciously indebted to Christ because of all He has done for me – so I indenture myself to Christ. I willingly choose to submit to Him as Lord of my life – BECAUSE HE IS SO GOOD TO ME!

Jesus meets us right where we are – but HE DOESN'T LEAVE US WHERE WE ARE AT.

Jesus doesn't tell them woman to return home – HE SAYS GO ANOTHER WAY – GO AND SIN NO MORE – DON'T GO BACK TO THAT DESTRUCTIVE LIFE.

AND HE CALLS US TO THE SAME TODAY – DON'T GO BACK TO SIN AND SHAME AND BROKENNESS – REMAIN IN CHRIST!

Walk with Him – Live in the Word – Live in prayer – Be with God's people.

### **PUT DOWN YOUR STONES**

One by one the crowd walks away when Christ tells them that the one without sin must begin the execution.

### **WHEN WE SPEAK WORDS OF JUDGMENT, CONDEMNATION, GOSSIP, AND SLANDER – CRITICAL MALICIOUS WORDS – WE EXECUTE PEOPLE ON THE INSIDE**

The power of life and death are in the TONGUE!

The church has the reputation of being a JUDGMENTAL PLACE. Beloved, speaking the truth about the gospel is one thing – but CASTING PEOPLE ASIDE IN THE PROCESS IS ANOTHER.

We should not be quick to throw someone down in the street with our words and our actions. LOVE COVERS A MULTITUDE OF SINS!

THE OLDER ONES BEGAN TO DISPERSE FIRST – in Jewish culture the older generation is considered the authority in any societal context, so when the older ones began to walk away the younger ones were left without a leg to stand on.

By the way – THE LONGER I WALK WITH JESUS THE MORE I LIMP ALONG THE JOURNEY

The closer I get to Jesus the more keenly aware I become of my own shortcomings.

## **A PERSON WHO WALKS WITH JESUS DOESN'T RUN TO JUDGMENT**

***Because of the incredible forgiveness we have been given Christians ought to be the least judgmental people on the planet.***

### **PICK UP YOUR HEAD**

This woman who is drug into the Temple yard, possibly screaming and crying, her sin now on display for all to see. Her shame in full view. Her disgrace laid out publicly.

### **JESUS COVERS HER DISGRACE WITH HIS GRACE.**

He stands before her and calls out her accusers – Woman, where are all those folks who condemned you?

#### **Psalm 3:3**

But you, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and the **lifter** of my **head**.

**BY THE WAY – ACCUSERS RUN WHEN GRACE SHOWS UP!** When Jesus came on the scene the accusers broke camp and left – because accusation and condemnation will never stand.

Psalm 32 – How blessed is the man who sin is forgiven and whose transgression is covered

Psalm 103 – Bless the Lord oh my soul – and let me not forget all his benefits – he forgives all our sins

#### **Psalm 103:10-17**

*<sup>10</sup> He does not deal with us according to our sins,  
nor repay us according to our iniquities.*

*<sup>11</sup> For as high as the heavens are above the earth,*

*so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;*

*<sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west,*

*so far does he remove our transgressions from us.*

*<sup>13</sup> As a father shows compassion to his children,*

*so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.*

*<sup>14</sup> For he knows our frame;*

*he remembers that we are dust.*

*<sup>15</sup> As for man, his days are like grass;*

*he flourishes like a flower of the field;*

*<sup>16</sup> for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,*

*and its place knows it no more.*

*<sup>17</sup> But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting  
on those who fear him,*

*and his righteousness to children's children,*

### **PARDON MUST BE RECEIVED**

Back in 1830 George Wilson was convicted of robbing the U.S. Mail and was sentenced to be hanged. President Andrew Jackson issued a pardon for Wilson, but he refused to accept it. The matter went to Chief Justice Marshall, who concluded that Wilson would have to be executed. "A pardon is a slip of paper," wrote Marshall, "the value of which is determined by the acceptance of the person to be pardoned. If it is refused, it is no pardon. George Wilson must be hanged."