



John 8:1-11 Part 25

Confrontation & Comfort

8:1 but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. 3 The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group 4 and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. 5 In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" 6 They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. 7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." 8 Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. 10 Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" 11 "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

1. Jesus confronts the comfortable

The religious leaders knew the Word of God inside and out. In this case, instead of using it as a proclamation of hope for the hurting, they chose to use it as a weapon to get what they wanted. Jesus turns it right back at them.

"You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. 2 Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. 3 So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment? 4 Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?"

Romans 2:1-4

1. Jesus comforts the condemned

"While it is clear that the woman is guilty, Jesus neither condemns nor excuses her. His statement acknowledges her guilt, but simply challenges her to abstain from sin in the future —offers her a chance for a new life."
Richard Niell Donovan

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

Romans 8:1

1. Jesus calls us to a new life

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." John 10:27

"Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be." John 12:26

"Jesus answered, 'If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me.'" John 21:22

"But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed."

Isaiah 53:5

"God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. 4 He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit."

Romans 8:3-4 (NLT)

This story is a warning for all of us. Don't let your comfortable understanding of who God is get in the way of being humbled from time to time. For those of you who feel closer to the woman in this story, your sin is not too much for God to forgive. But in order to be forgiven, you must welcome the new King and accept His grace, His way.

Questions to consider this week:

1. Which of the two parties (religious leaders/woman) do you identify with the most? Why?
2. What does it look like in your life to value equally God's justice and God's mercy?
3. What other Bible stories do you believe have a similar theme as John 8:1-11?