

God With Us

A Study of John's Gospel: "Caught Not Condemned"

John 8:1-11

"Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you, go and from now on sin no more." – John 8:10

I. Caught in the Act

- a. Have you ever been caught *red-handed*, *dead to rights*, or *in the wrong*? Fear, shame and guilt struck you all at once. Did you instantly think of an excuse or try to find a way out?
- b. We have all been there, because we have all sinned. To be very honest, all of us have been "caught in the act" by God. Some of our transgressions have been caught by people.
- c. The Jewish leaders were not looking for guidance, but testing.
- d. Adultery was a serious, sinful matter, because it had the potential of impacting families and generations, it violated the sanctity of marriage, and it undermined the marital covenant. (Heb 13:4)
 1. Think about all other sins associated with adultery: betrayal, lying, lust, etc.
- e. Jesus steps in like a "super-hero" and saves the woman's life. Her sin was worthy of death.
- f. They say *such* are to be stoned, which is the feminine form of the word, "such women." Where was the man, it takes two to commit adultery? (Lev. 20:10; Deut. 22:22-24)
- g. This woman's sin and guilt were real. She committed the crime of adultery. God's Law required and commanded her death.
- h. Jesus' words are powerfully said, "Neither do I condemn you; go and from now on sin no more."
- i. Jesus acknowledges her sin, but He does not condone the sin. He paves the way for thankfulness and personal acknowledgement.
- j. We must *see* (acknowledge) the sin for what it is, before true forgiveness can be received.

II. Love Must Overcome Sin

- a. Make no mistake, adultery (the Seventh Commandment) is serious business. It is serious sin!
- b. God fully intended for this sin of adultery to be punished, but she would go free and not bear the punishment. Jesus would be punished in her place.
- c. Love covers a multitude of sin. (1 Peter 4:8) To "cover" sin is to forgive it, and forgiveness is associated with love. Jesus redeems us to restore us.
- d. A Good News story of forgiveness, reconciliation and restoration. (Prov. 4:23; 5:18)

III. Applying the Lesson

- a. Sin is sin and it should be acknowledged. Jesus did not say she was right, but He found use in her.
- b. In community, and in personal relationships, we should recognize there will always be a need for forgiveness, restoration and reconciliation.
- c. Self-righteousness is a sin all people are guilty of but often unaware in their own lives.
- d. Jesus' encounter with the woman exposes our own hypocritical tendencies.
- e. God sent His Son into the world to save us from the condemnation we rightly deserve. (John 3:17)
- f. We cover sin by acknowledging it and then extending the forgiveness God has given us to others.
- g. Beloved, where would we be without the redeeming love, faithful forgiveness, and patient restoration of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ?