

**Osceola Sermon / August 29 / Pastor Bob Vale)**  
**Jesus encounters The Woman accused of Adultery. (John 8:1-12)**

**Biblical Focus: John 8:10-11** "Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" <sup>JN 8:11</sup> "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

**Scripture Lesson: John 8:1-11** "But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. <sup>2</sup>At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. <sup>3</sup>The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group <sup>4</sup> and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. <sup>5</sup> In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." <sup>8</sup> Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

<sup>JN 8:9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, **where are they? Has no one condemned you?**" <sup>JN 8:11</sup> **"No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."**

Opening Hymn: #322 Up From The Grave He Arose  
Prayer Chorus: #354 I Surrender All (One Verse)  
Hymn of Discipleship: #402 Lord I want to be a Christian in my heart

**Open sermon with video clip from The Gospel of  
John 8:1-11 (1:05:16 – 1:08:25)**

**John 8:2** "At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them."

**Here we have Jesus teaching in the temple courts.** (Teaching in the Temple Court was typically reserved for the Saducees, Pharisees and teachers of the law, not a Rabbi from Galilee.) In fact, in the previous few verses, Nicodemus tried to stand up for Jesus, but was told, "read the scriptures, no prophet will ever come from Galilee."

**Jesus was no stranger to the temple court.**

1. Directly after Jesus birth, an elderly man named Simeon saw the baby Jesus, who told Mary and Joseph, "God promised him he would see the Messiah before he died. (This took place in the temple.; Luke 2:25-30)
2. Remember Jesus as a boy of 12 years old, when he amazed the teachers of the Law with his knowledge at the temple court? (Luke 2:41-49)
3. Jesus taught in the temples on many different occasions in the gospels: (Matthew 21:23-23-39; John 7:14-8:59)
4. Jesus cleared the temple of the merchants: (Matthew 21:12-16)

This is where Jesus taught and confronted the Jewish religious leaders.

Remember these are the same Jewish leaders that want to somehow get rid of Jesus. Jesus was pressing their authority and they wanted him to get out of town! They were constantly trying to trap him by breaking the law or preaching some kind of heresy. But they never could.

2,000 years later and people still look at the scriptures with skepticism.

2,000 years later and the Jewish nation, who refused to accept Jesus as the Messiah is a mere 14 million people while the Christian faith covers a third of the world population. (Two Billion)

**John 8:3** The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group.

**Two points need to be made here:**

1. Here again the Jewish leaders were trying to trap Jesus within the walls of the Temple.
2. If they caught this woman in the act of adultery, **where was the man?** (This denotes their hypocrisy at only bringing the woman and not the man.)

**John 8:3-6** "They made her stand before the group" <sup>4</sup> and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery." <sup>5</sup> In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" <sup>6</sup> They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him."

The Jewish leaders were experts at **Kangaroo courts**. They were literally going to kill her right in the temple. That would be like us killing someone from the Osceola Church in the fellowship hall, because they broke one of God's laws.

**They were setting a trap for Jesus: (Either Stone her or Let her Go!)**

1. If Jesus said, "show grace and let her go"; then they would say, "He is breaking The Law of Moses."
2. If Jesus said, "Go ahead and stone her for her crimes," then he would be going against the forgiveness and peace message he has been preaching all throughout the land.

**They thought for sure they had Jesus this time!!! They were just waiting for a response so they could jump on him and possibly "Stone" him. That also was the punishment for preaching heresy. Perhaps the stones that were brought were also for Jesus? (Just in case he messed up and preached a bit of heresy.)**

**John 8:6-8** "But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. <sup>7</sup> When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, **"If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her."** <sup>8</sup> Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground."

Jesus did not even dignify their questions with an answer. **What Jesus wrote on the ground we don't know**; Remember this is the same finger that wrote the Ten Commandments. Jesus was probably just scribbling as they were asking more questions. Then he gave the answer that was truly amazing.

**"If anyone of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her."**

Jesus took the lynch mob mentality, and turned it into a **personal individual time of reflection for everyone present**.

1. Were any of them perfect?
2. Had they also sinned a time or two in their life worthy of this type of punishment?
3. If I throw the first stone, will someone throw a stone at me one day on trumped up charges?

**From this one scripture come the following thoughts or sayings in our culture:**

1. People who live in glass houses should not throw stones.
2. There but by the grace of God go I.
3. Judge not, lest you be judged.
4. If you throw a rock in anger, in time, it generally comes flying back at you.

### **The Jewish Leaders were stunned in silence at Jesus remarks!**

Jesus reminded them that as they had one long finger pointing at the woman, there were still three other fingers pointing back at them!

**What did Jesus write on the ground after making that statement?**

1. Perhaps a list of common sins each one had committed.
2. Perhaps Jesus wrote the accurate verse they misquoted from the Old Testament law: Lev 20:10; Deut 22:22 'If there is a man who commits adultery with another man's wife, one who commits adultery with his friend's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.'
3. Perhaps Jesus wrote the names of their own mistresses?

**I don't know who wrote this poem, but it is pretty good:** "He wrote on the ground-when the Pharisees came-Accusing the woman-With wild words of blame-No sign did He give-No wisdom profound-As He wrote on the ground-He stooped as He wrote-And His eyes mild that shone-With love for the sinner-As He stooped all alone-Not one man remained-In the silence that smote-He stooped as He wrote."

**John 8:9** "At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first,"

There were no more arguing & pointing fingers.

There were no more questions to Jesus.

They realized the truth of the matter. In fact; it was silent. All you heard was the thud of the large rocks slipping out of their hand as they walked away in shame.

**Wisdom prevailed:** The older men dropped their rocks first. Perhaps these are men who have been shown grace for some of the mistakes in their own lives.

I assume if each of us were to examine our lives; we would admit there have been times when we were shown mercy rather than conviction.

**Then comes what I consider to be the most forgiving and graceful passages in the entire holy Bible.**

**John 8:9b** "Until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. <sup>10</sup> Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, **where are they? Has no one condemned you?**" <sup>JN 8:11</sup> "**No one, sir,**" she said. "**Then neither do I condemn you,**" Jesus declared. "**Go now and leave your life of sin.**"

Here was this poor lady lying on the ground, crying, expecting at any moment for large rocks to begin pelting her body until she died. She had probably seen others who met this fate in the temple square. As she looks up a bit with her tear filled eyes, suddenly she noticed everyone was gone. The nightmare was over.

Isn't that Just like God to get us alone with Him before we can do business together, we need to get alone and lose all the distractions in life.

However, she may have thought; "Would this religious Rabbi rebuke her and shame her for what she has done?" Would he give her the 10-15 minute lecture on why a person should not commit adultery? Would he Jesus be brazen enough to want some kind of payment for saving her life?

Jesus tenderly picked her up off the ground; looks into her eyes and says, "**Where are they? Who is here to condemn you?**"

**As she looked around, the answer was clear: There was no one.**

**Jesus' words were refreshing! (Neither do I condemn you.)**

**He followed it up with; (Now go and leave you life of Sin.)**

1. **He did not water down holiness with...."Everything is going to be alright honey; don't worry about it."**
2. **He did not cheapen grace by saying....."It's alright everyone is doing it." (committing adultery)**
3. **He did not overlook righteousness by saying....."It was just a little mistake."**

**He compassionately and with divine wisdom said, "Go now and leave your life of sin?"**

**Jesus is asking her to turn 180 in the other direction in regard to her life of sin. Is Jesus asking you to turn 180 degrees in some area of your life this morning?**

On New Year's Day, 1929, Georgia Tech played UCLA in the Rose Bowl. In that game a UCLA player named Roy Riegels recovered a fumble, but somehow got confused and started running in the wrong direction down the field. He ran sixty-five yards before one of his teammates, Benny Lom, tackled him just in front of the goal line—otherwise Riegels could have scored a safety for the opposing team. UCLA was unable to move the ball from that point in the game. Georgia Tech blocked the punt and scored a safety on the play.

Since that strange play happened in the first half, everyone watching the game was asking the same question: "What will coach Nibbs Price do with Roy Riegels in the second half?" The players filed off the field, went into the dressing room, and sat down on the benches and the floor—all except Riegels. He put his blanket around his shoulders, sat down in a corner, put his face in his hands, and cried like a baby.

A coach usually has a great deal to say to his team during halftime, but that day, Coach Price was quiet. No doubt he was trying to decide what to do with Riegels. Then the timekeeper came in and announced that there were only three minutes till play time. Price looked at the team and said simply, "Men, the same team that played the first half will start the second."

The players got up and started out—all but Riegels. He didn't budge. The coach looked back and called to him again; still he didn't move. Coach Price went over to where Riegels sat and said, "Roy, didn't you hear me? The same team that played the first half will start the second." Then Roy Riegels looked up and Price saw that his cheeks were wet with a strong man's tears.

"Coach," he said, "I can't do it to save my life. I've ruined you. I've ruined the University of California. I've ruined myself. I couldn't face that crowd in the stadium to save my life." Then Coach Price put his hand on Riegels' shoulder and said, "Roy, get up and go on back. The game is only half over." And Roy Riegels went back, and those Georgia Tech players will tell you they have never seen a man play football as Roy Riegels did in that second half.

The grace of God is like Roy's coach. At times we feel as if we've messed up so badly that we want to give up and throw in the towel. God doesn't give up on us, though. He says, "Get up and get on out there. The game isn't over yet." The Gospel of the grace of God is the Gospel of the second chance, and the third chance, and the hundredth chance. We fumble the ball continually, but God never tosses us out of the game. He just keeps cheering us on.

**Some of you may think, "God is done with me." But that is not true. You have a lot of life left to live and God wants you to live it the right way.**

**As you look at your own life this morning, is Jesus asking you to leave you life of sin? Perhaps an area God has pointed out to you this morning?**

**Have you been the Pharisee wanting to throw the rock at another person and now God is asking you to show grace?**

**Have you throw some rocks at some others and now it is time to repair the broken windows of a hurt relationship?**

**The altar is open for those who would wish to speak to the loving, forgiving and graceful heavenly father.**

**(Play soft music)**

Author and speaker Brennan Manning tells the story of a woman who visited her priest and told him that when she prays, she sees Jesus in a vision.

“He appears to me as real as you are standing here right now, Father,” said the woman. “And he speaks to me. He tells me that he loves me and wants to be with me. Do you think I’m crazy?”

“Not at all,” replied the priest. “But to make sure it is really Jesus who is visiting you, I want you to ask him a question when he appears to you again. Ask him to tell you the sins that I confessed to him in confession. Then come back and tell me what he said.”

A few days later the women returned. “Did you have another vision of Jesus?” the priest inquired of her. “Yes I did Father,” she replied. “And did you ask him to tell you the sins that I confessed to him while I was in confession?” “Yes I did,” the woman answered.

“And what did he tell you?” asked the priest expectantly.

**“He said... ‘I forgot.’”**

Jesus graciously forgives and forgets our sins when we confess them to him. Scripture assures us of this: **“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us”** (1 John 1:9); and **“I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions...and remembers your sins no more,” says the Lord** (Isaiah 43:25). Once God has forgiven our sins, they are gone forever, separated from us **“as far as the east is from the west”** (Psalm 103:12; Hebrews 8:12).

**Let’s Pray,**