

- ***Read John 8:1-11*** Our text for this evening is found right in the middle of many conflicts that took place between Jesus and the religious leadership of that time. Going all the way back to **John 5**, we see the Jewish leadership taking issue with Jesus and the thing He was doing during His ministry on earth. They took issue with Jesus's healing on the Sabbath, His calling Himself the bread from heaven, His teaching in the synagogues, & His claims of being from God. Because of their boiling hatred for Jesus, they constantly looked for ways to catch Him in difficult circumstances that they might be able to stick a charge on Him of wrongdoing.
- One such instance is found here in **John 8**. Jesus, as was His custom, was found in the temple teaching those people that would come to Him and lesson. While trying to engage in spiritual discussions, The Scribes and Pharisees crash the study by dragging this woman into the middle of everyone. They demand what Jesus says they ought to do with this woman who was caught in the very act of adultery. They said that they ought to stone her according to the Law of Moses. Jesus doesn't pay them much attention by kneeling and writing in the sand, knowing that this is a test, but they keep insisting that He give them an answer to what they ought to do. Jesus rises up and says that the person who was without sin was to throw the first stone at her and then He goes back to the writing in the sand. Once they are all gone, Jesus speaks to the woman and asked her where her accusers were. With them gone, He says that He does not condemn her either and commands her to go and sin no more.
- This story is full of things we could spend our time talking about. We could talk about the Scribes and Pharisees lack of respect for Jesus by crashing His teachings with foolishness. We could discuss how they were wrong in the application of the Law. They were trying to inflict the punishment of an unmarried woman on this married one. **(Deut. 22:23,24)** They also failed to bring the man who was also caught up in the sin. We could also look to the fact that Jesus was not the one who was to make that call concerning whether the woman should die or not. Jesus respected God's Law. He knew that the witness was supposed to be the first one to throw a stone, and then the crowd would follow. **(Deut. 17:7)** Jesus neither condoned the sin nor did He violate Moses's Law. Once again, our Master Teacher did everything well.
- What I would like to do with this text is to apply the PATH Study Method to it. We talked about this a few months ago, and I would like for us to use the remainder of our time looking at these for things we can take away from this text in the gospel of John. **Praise:** What in this text causes me to praise God? **Admonish:** What in this text admonishes me to do better? **Trust:** What in this text causes me to trust God even more? **Help:** What in this text helps me to persevere in this life?

I. Praise God and Jesus for Their patience.

- A. Without the patience of our God, we would be a people in a most horrible place.
 1. God has continually shown His perfect patience towards His Creation. (Adam & Eve, Israel, David, etc.)
 2. He is patient to allow us to continue on even when we continually go against His will for us. He would have every right to strike us down, but instead He gives us time to turn back to Him.
 3. His patience is driven by His desire for all people to repent and turn to them before they perish in their sins. **(II Peter 3:9)**
 4. His patience was the only thing that gave the Jews a chance of repentance. **(Rom. 2:4)**
 5. Thank God that we have this same patience extended towards us!
- B. Jesus exemplified this patience by the way that He acted during this entire ordeal.
 1. How many of us would have put our foot down right away and ran the Scribes and Pharisees off without even giving them a chance to learn this important lesson?
 2. Jesus allow His patience to show by allowing them to say their peace while simply kneeling down and writing in the sand.
 3. Then when He did talk, He didn't berate or blast....He simply gave them the opportunity to consider their own actions and hearts before they took out their anger at Jesus out against this person.
 4. These men had no other intentions that to cause Jesus to trip up, yet He kept his cool. Sure He became angry at times with their constant foolishness, but He never sinned in His anger. **(Eph. 4:26)**
 5. Praise Jesus for His patience towards these people and towards us!

II. I am admonished to make sure that my motives are pure when it comes to Jesus.

- A. These men had no desire of purely wanting God's justice to be carried out. Instead, they just wanted to find a way to cause Jesus to stumble.
 1. The Scripture is very quick to point out that their focus was on testing Jesus in an effort to accuse Him of wrong. **(John 8:6)**
 2. They would either put Him into a position where He would contradict the Law, or He would take civil justice upon Himself and they would run to the Romans.
 3. They weren't concerned with true justice or this woman. They just wanted to trap & condemn Jesus.
- B. It can be easy for us to approach Jesus and our service towards Him with impure motives.

1. Some treat service to God as some magical formula in order to receive good things in this life, but God is not the God of health and wealth.
2. We might simply see being a part of the church as an opportunity to know others and build relationships and gain a good reputation that might help us in other areas of life.
3. While we are blessed with such, we ought not to serve Jesus just for the gain of relationships or
4. We also shouldn't strive to put God to the test. We ought not serve God and get become upset when this world deals us a bad hand. It rains on the just and the unjust (**Matt. 5:45**), and we ought not blame God for not giving us perfect protection. Some might try to test God in such ways.
5. When we serve God, we ought to serve Him with pure hearts of love and desire. We ought to simply serve and glorify God in this life because we love Him as our Creator.
6. May we never fall into the pits of deception and impurity that these men were found in.

III. I need to trust even more in the mercies of God.

- A. In this text, we see the compassion of Jesus.
 1. This woman was still guilty of committing adultery, and while she wasn't too be stoned this sin was still punishable by death.
 2. Yet, Jesus did not condemn her to such, even though He could've. Instead, we see His compassion on the one who had been caught up in sin.
 3. This isn't the first or last time that Jesus had been gentle and compassionate with those in sin or struggling. He was gentle with the Samaritan woman in **John 4** when He acknowledged that she was on her 6th man.
 4. Jesus was also very gentle with Thomas after his doubting of His resurrection. (**John 20:19-29**)
 5. Our Lord is so merciful and I need to trust in His mercies.
- B. How easy is it for us to get down on ourselves after we have sinned because we just don't think that Jesus can show us mercy and forgive us?
 1. Maybe its the case that we have struggled for so long with a specific temptation or weakness and try as we might, we just can't get over it and we stop seeking God's mercy and forgiveness....
 2. Or maybe its that we think we have done something so bad that God can't show mercy and forgives us...
 3. But when I look to the Bible about forgiveness... I don't see any qualifiers besides the fact that my repentance must be legitimate. In **I John 1:9**, I see God's only qualifier being that fact that we must confess and repent and He is willing to forgive us.
 4. You might consider **Psalm 32:1-7** which is a Psalm of David concerning confession of sin and God's mercy. We must trust in God's mercy and good things will happen for us. It does us no good to keep everything cooped up inside where we will just waste away. The mercy of God and Jesus is greater than all our sins.

IV. Seeing Jesus's handling of this woman and her sins helps me to have confidence that I can get past my own sins.

- A. Jesus gives this woman great words of encouragement as to what she needed to go and do from that point on in her life.
 1. He simply tells her to go and sin no more.
 2. I can't imagine being in the shoes of that woman. She had been caught red handed in the most embarrassing of situations and she had been dragged into the middle of this group of people and used as a pawn in the sick game of the Scribes and Pharisees. She is condemned by these people in front of this Master Teacher, and all she can do it sit by and wait and see if He condemns her to death or not.
 3. And yet in the end...Jesus implores her to go on her way and sin no more.
 4. I have a hard time thinking about the weight that must have been lifted off of her shoulders at that moment.
- B. Whereas, we need to trust in God's mercies in order to confess our sins, we also need to trust in the fact that we can, with God's help, go on and sin no more.
 1. Just as we talked about this morning, God's Grace instructs us how to live rightly after receiving God's forgiveness. (**Titus 2:12**)
 2. We must be committed to the righteousness that we turned to when we sought out forgives of our sins. We are no longer slaves of sin, but we are now slaves of righteousness. (**Romans 6:16-22**)
 3. We need not to wallow in self pity for our sins, but we need to accept God's mercies and forgiveness and go out bearing fruits of that repentance and grace.
 4. John demanded more than just a sorry from the Jewish Leadership, he demanded fruits of repentance. (**Matt. 3:8**)
 5. This story helps encourage me that I can go on from my sin and sin no more.

Reading the Bible is great, but really considering how that text can fit into my life is where real edification is achieved. I hope you will consider this text and other texts and see how they can affect you and make you more like our Savior Jesus. We want to be like Him in all that we do, and meditation on His Word is a wonderful place to start. May He be glorified in our efforts to grow as we meditate on His Word.