
Jesus and the Adulterous Woman

Jn 8:1-11

Introduction:

1. On March 22, 1824 an incident took place in Madison County, IN which came to be known as the Fall Creek Massacre. Six white men murdered nine Seneca and Miami Indians and wounded another. Among the nine dead were three women and four children. The six men were apprehended and tried and some were executed. One of the men named John Bridge Jr. was sentenced to death by hanging for his part in the massacre. He was to be executed on June 3, 1825. His father, John Bridge Sr. and a man named Andrew Sawyer, who was John Bridge Jr.'s uncle were also to be executed that day. John Bridge Jr., along with a large crowd witnessed the hanging of his father and uncle as the crowd waited expectantly for a pardon from the governor. With no sign of a pardon, a sermon was preached as the crowd waited. Finally John Bridge, Jr. was lead to the gallows and the rope was lowered over his head. But as the men waited for a signal a cheer arose from the back of the crowd. A stranger rode forward and looked the condemned man in the face. "Sir, do you know in whose presence you stand?" Bridge shook his head. "There are but two powers known to the law that can save you from hanging by the neck until you are dead. One is the great God of the universe and the other is J. Brown Ray, Governor of the State of Indiana and the latter stands before you..." The governor handed over the written pardon and announced, "You are pardoned."

In an instant, what looked like a hopeless situation became a door of hope. John Bridge, Jr. went back home, settled down, opened a dry goods store and died peacefully fifty-one years later.

Can you imagine the fear that must have gripped the heart of that young man as he watched his father and uncle die by hanging knowing that he was to be the next one to die? Imagine the terror he felt being led to the gallows and having the noose put around his neck.

2. There was another person who experienced that feeling. The woman who was caught in the act of adultery and brought trembling before Jesus knew that kind of fear. She just knew that she was about to face a terrible death by stoning.
3. I praise the Lord this morning that there is a Savior who loves sinners and understands us like we are.
 - a. Now, please do not misunderstand me, God never condones your sins or mine.
 - b. He is holy and He hates our sin with His entire being.
 - c. However, He knows what we are made of and He knows what we face in our lives day by day, Psa. 103:14.
 - d. Jesus lived for 33 years among us + He knows about sin - Phil. 2:5-8!
4. In this chapter John paints a picture of a Sympathetic Savior.
 - a. He doesn't tell us of One who is soft on sin, but of One who loves sinners and reaches out to them in grace, forgiveness and love.
 - b. That is the Savior I would like to bring before you this morning.
5. I want to preach for a while on Jesus: The Sympathetic Savior.

I. THE SINFUL WOMAN – vs 3

3 And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst,

A. Her Sin

1. She was caught in the very act of adultery.
2. She was guilty before the face of the Lord and before the world.
3. Adultery is a vile sin, but it is no worse than any other – Ja 2:10
4. We are guilty before the Lord!
 - a) *Ro 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*
 - b) *Ro 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
 - c) *Gal 3:22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin...*
5. We are all as guilty as this woman, our problem is that we simply won't admit to it - Pro. 28:13.

B. Her Shame

1. In their haste to bring this woman to Jesus, her accusers probably didn't give her sufficient time to get properly dressed before they brought her into public.
2. However that may have been, she was certainly humiliated by the public accusation and disclosure of her sin.
3. Sin is a shameful thing!
 - a) *No matter how skillfully it is hidden from the eyes of men*
 - b) *Jesus knows all about it and one day it will be revealed*
 - c) *There comes a day of judgment and disclosure - Rev. 20:11-15*

C. Her Sentence

1. Her accusers were absolutely correct!
 - a) *Law said she deserved to die – Lev 20:10 and Deut 22:22*
Le 20:10 *And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.*
 - b) *Where was her partner? Both were supposed to die for this sin*
 - c) *The man may have been part of this scheme to attack Jesus.*
 - d) *He may have been allowed to slip away.*
 - e) *Nevertheless, this woman was guilty and she deserved to die.*
2. Nobody gets away with sin! The penalty always comes due
 - a) *Ro 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*
 - b) *Eze 18:4 Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.*
 - c) *There will come a payday someday!*
 - d) *The only hope any sinner has is to run to Jesus.*
 - e) *He offers the only hope anyone has*
3. In their effort to humiliate this woman and to discredit the Lord, they brought her to the best possible place.
 - a) *They brought her to the very man who could deal with her past and her problems and who could make it all right*
 - b) *Never think that Jesus doesn't care - He is the sinner's Friend!*

I. The Sinful Woman

II. THE SCHEMING CRITICS – vs 3-9

A. *Their Plan – vs 6a*

6 This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him...

1. These men wanted to pin Jesus on the horns of a dilemma.
 - a) *If Jesus let the woman go, then He would be seen as being easy on sin and being in violation of the Law.*
 - b) *If He gave permission for the woman to be killed, He would destroy His reputation as the "friend of publicans / sinners".*
2. They felt that Jesus had no wiggle room.

B. *Their Problems*

- Their plan might have succeeded with an ordinary man, but they were dealing with Jesus Christ, and He didn't play by their rules!
- They tried to stump Jesus, but discovered they had met their match
- Notice how He responded to their arguments.

1. They Were Ignored – vs 6b

6b ... But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not.

- a) *He just knelt down and began to write on the ground.*
- b) *He had no use for their pettiness and lack of love for sinners.*
- c) *What did Jesus write? No one knows bc the Bible does not say*
 - (1) *Maybe He wrote the Ten Commandments. After all, it was his finger that wrote them the first time!*
 - (2) *Perhaps He wrote their names in fulfillment of Jeremiah 17:13.*
 - (3) *Maybe He wrote out Lev. 20:10 and Deut. 22:22.*
 - (4) *Maybe He simply wrote their sins in the sand.*
 - (a) *The normal Greek word for to write is graphein*
 - (b) *But here the word used is katagraphein, which can mean to write down a record against someone. (One of the meanings of kata is against).*
 - (5) *Whatever the Lord wrote on the ground, it surely got their attention.*

2. They Were Exposed – vs 7-9

7 So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. 8 And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. 9 And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

a) *When Jesus did speak, He said, "He that is without sin among, let him first cast a stone at her."*

- (1) Jesus wasn't requiring that any judge be sinless.
- (2) If that were the case then no human would ever be able to render judgment in any matter, even in a court of law.
- (3) I think that Jesus was saying to these hypocrites, "He that is free from this particular sin, let him first cast a stone at her."
- (4) You see, adultery can be committed with the head and the heart just as surely as it may be committed with the body!
- (5) At this point, all the shouting came to a stop and all that could be heard was the dropping of their rocks and the shuffle of their sandals as they stole quietly away.
- (6) You see, these men has been exposed before their fellow man, the accused lady and most importantly before the Lord.

b) *Let's at least give them credit for the fact that when they saw themselves as they really were they left*

- (1) I want you to know that one of the hardest things you can face is yourself as you really are!
- (2) When you see yourself as sinful, then you can do something about it.
- (3) Paul would have gone to Hell had he not been brought face to face with himself on the road to Damascus - Acts 9
- (4) When we are convicted of our sins, then is the time to come to Jesus.
- (5) After all, He is the only One who can deal with Man's sin problem!

Quote from Arthur Pink

“Christ’s enemies had thought to ensnare Him by the law of Moses; instead, they had its searching light turned upon themselves. Grace had not defied, but had upheld the law! One sentence from the lips of Holiness incarnate and they were all silenced, all convicted, and all departed. At another time, a self-righteous Pharisee might boast of his lastings, his tithes and his prayers; but when God turns the light on a man’s heart, his moral and spiritual depravity become apparent even to himself, and shame shuts his lips. So it was here. Not a word had Christ uttered against the law; in nowise had He condoned the woman’s sin. Unable to find any ground for accusation against Him, completely baffled in their evil designs, convicted by their consciences, they slunk away.”

The Sinful Woman
The Scheming Critics

III. THE SYMPATHETIC SAVIOR – vs 9B-11

- "Law and grace do not compete with each other; they complement each other. Nobody was ever saved by keeping the Law, but nobody was ever saved by grace who was not *first* indicted by the Law. There must be conviction before there can be conversion."

A. He Faced Her – vs 9b-10

9 And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. 10 When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?

1. When the last rock had hit the ground, Jesus stood up and faced this sinful woman.
 - a) *As He stood before her, He was the only One the world has ever known who was qualified to take up the first stone and stone her to death.*
 - b) *When she faced Jesus, she was facing the ultimate judge!*
2. She had reached a place where it was just her and Jesus.
 - a) *It always comes down to that!*
 - b) *Eventually, you are going to have to face Jesus.*
 - c) *He has given you opportunities in this life to come to Him.*
 - d) *What have you done with them?*
 - e) *My friend, you will either receive Jesus at one of life's encounters, or you will face Him on judgment day.*
 - f) *Which would you rather it be?*
 - g) *What you do with Him determines where / how you spend eternity*

B. He Forgave Her – vs 11

11 She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

- The only One qualified to throw a stone refused to do so!
- Jesus dealt with her on the basis of compassion and grace
- The religious men had condemned her, Jesus however, saw someone with repentance and faith in her heart
- With no prosecutors – Jesus dismissed her case
- When she came to Jesus, she received 2 great blessings that forever changed her life. These same 2 blessings are the gift of God to all who receive Jesus as their Savior.

1. A New Lord – “No man, Lord”

a) *Simple confession of Christ as Lord, salvation became hers*

b) *Jesus was now her Lord*

Rom. 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God has raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved!

c) *What about you? Have you taken this step of faith?*

d) *Anyone who wants to be saved can be saved through faith in the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ! Rev. 22:17*

2. A New Life

a) *All of her life, she had been subject to the God of this world, Satan.*

b) *She had been a prisoner of her own lusts and desires, Eph. 2:1-3.*

c) *Jesus, however, came and unlocked the shackles that held her bound in sin and He set her free!*

d) *Jesus specializes in taking wasted, ruined lives and saving them by His grace and restoring them to usefulness.*

2Co 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

e) *We get a chance to begin again, and this time, we actually have a chance of making something out of our lives*

Conclusion:

1. Maybe. Like this woman, your life has been wrecked and ruined by sin.
2. Maybe you are looking for a compassionate Savior, One who will make everything right.
3. The boy rode up on his bicycle to deliver the afternoon newspaper. He saw the sign advertising “Puppies for Sale.”

"'Mister,' he said. 'I want to buy one of your puppies.'

"'Well,' said the farmer, as he wiped the sweat off the back of his neck, these puppies come from fine parents and cost a good deal of money.'

"The boy dropped his head for a moment. Then reaching deep into his pocket, he pulled out a handful of change and held it up to the farmer. 'I've got thirty-nine cents. Is that enough to take a look?'

"'Sure,' said the farmer. And with that he let out a whistle. 'Here, Dolly!' he called. Out from the doghouse ran Dolly followed by four little balls of fur. The little boy pressed his face against the chain-link fence. His eyes danced with delight.

"As the dogs made their way to the fence, the little boy noticed something else stirring in the doghouse. Slowly another little ball appeared; this one noticeably smaller. In a somewhat awkward manner the little puppy began hobbling toward the others, doing its best to catch up. This was clearly the runt of the litter.

"'I want that one,' said the boy pointing to the runt.

"The farmer knelt down at the boy's side and said, 'Son, you don't want that puppy. He will never be able to run and play with you like these other dogs would.'

With that the little boy stepped back from the fence, reached down, and began rolling up the leg of his trousers. In doing so, he revealed a steel brace running down both sides of his leg and attaching itself to a specially made shoe. Looking back up at the farmer, he said, 'You see, sir, I don't run too well myself, and he will need someone who understands.'"

4. If there are issues in your life that need to be settled, this is the time to take care of them forever.