

The Forgiveness of the Adulterous Woman

John 8:1-11

The forgiveness of God goes all the way back to the beginning of the creation of man. If God were not forgiving, we would not be here today. The bible says of God in Psalm 79:38, “**But he, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not.**” The Lord Jesus Christ showed compassion all through His ministry to many, many people.

Today we will focus in on just one of those people and remember that we also have benefited from the Lord’s forgiveness, though none of us deserve it.

THE ACCUSERS

- Very religious, very self-righteous, zealous, very moral.
- Appeared faultless, but it was only external (Mt 23:23-27).
- Wrong motives: they referred to the Law to tempt Jesus Christ so they could accuse Him (vs 6).
- They found out that Jesus did honor the Law of Moses, but He was also kind and forgiving (Mt 9:13).
 - Saul of Tarsus boasted of the Lord’s forgiveness and mercy toward him (Acts 22:4, 1 Tim 1:15).
- They had no concern for the accused woman. They had no feeling or compassion for her at all.
 - We need to exercise patience and compassion for people who come to our church who are still struggling with sin. Seek how you can help, not how you can condemn.
 - Jesus didn’t excuse the woman’s sin (vs 11), and neither should we. But we need to exercise real care and concern for those who need our help and prayer to live a righteous life.
- They were zealous against the sins of other people to cover up their own sins (vs 7).
- They were biased (unbalanced, partial) in their judgment. They ignored the sins of the man who was also guilty of adultery (caught in the very act). The Law required both the man and the woman to be judged (Leviticus 20:10).
 - Jesus is no respecter of persons (James 3:7).

THE ADULTERESS

- She is nameless because God considers the feelings of those whom he forgives. Her past is forgotten.
 - She was ashamed, embarrassed, humbled, frightened, and convicted.
 - She was guilty. She made no attempt to make excuses or to deny or try to cover up what she had done.
 - She didn’t try to escape from the judgment she had to face.
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THE ADVOCATE

- He didn't speak to the accusers (vs 6). He silently stooped down and wrote in the sand.
 - He knew exactly what to write that would silence and convict every one of the woman's accusers.
 - In so doing He judged the judges and appointed the executioners (Vs 7, Deut 17:7).
 - He did not delight in this opportunity to condemn the woman.
 - The Lord does not have pleasure in judging the wicked (Ezek 18:23, 2 Pet 3:9).
 - Jesus was not sent to condemn the world (John 3:17-18).
 - He is a friend of sinners (Mt 11:19, Lu 7:34).
 - Saul of Tarsus (Acts 7:58, 1 Tim 1:13).
 - The woman at the well (Jn 4:4-30).
 - Mary Magdalene (Mk 16:9, Lu 8:2).
 - The maniac of the Gadarenes (Lu 8:26-35).
 - The withered man at the pool of Bethesda (Jn 5:2-9).
 - He followed the Law, giving the accusers legal grounds to stone the woman.
 - But He also knew they could not rightfully stone her unless they were without sin (vs 7).
 - Jesus was the only One without sin, and He would not stone her.
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THE ACQUITTAL

- There were no more accusers (vs 10) and Jesus would not condemn her (vs 11).
 - She was not merely excused. She was commanded not to sin anymore (vs 11).
 - Forgiveness is to be followed by right living.
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We cannot pay for our own sins. Jesus Christ, in his mercy and love, is the only One who can pay for the sins of all mankind. He did that on Calvary's cross. We thank the Lord Jesus for His wonderful mercy and forgiveness. Will you choose hell or forgiveness? Please accept the forgiveness that Jesus Christ offers.

Four Lessons:

1. We are foolish to condemn others.
2. We ought to look to our own sin.
3. We must tell every sinner about the forgiveness that Jesus Christ offers.
4. The Lord Jesus Christ is not eager or happy to condemn anybody. He wants all men to repent and be saved.

"I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins."

Isaiah 43:25

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

Isaiah 1:18