

Jesus and the Adulteress Woman John 8:2-11

Introduction:

In John 8, Jesus has another run in with the Pharisees. They bring Him a woman who has been caught in adultery. The old law is very plain when it comes to the punishment for this sin, but they decide to test Jesus with it. Today we will look at the Pharisees and their test along with the response of Jesus to this test.

I. Jesus is faced with a test of the scribes and Pharisees.

- A. Notice exactly who the Pharisees were.
 - 1. They were the religious leaders of the day.
 - 2. They were constantly trying to make themselves look better than they actually were.
 - a. **Mt. 23:25** - Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence.
 - 3. They wanted everyone to think that they were very religious.
 - a. However, Jesus says that we need to be more righteous than them.
 - b. **Mt. 5:20** - For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.
- B. Jesus had constant battles with the Pharisees.
 - 1. Notice some other occasions throughout the New Testament that Jesus is tested by the Pharisees.
 - a. **Mt. 16:1** - Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven.
 - b. **Mt. 19:3** - The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?"
 - c. **Mt. 22:15** - Then the Pharisees went and plotted how they might entangle Him in His talk.
 - d. **Mt. 22:17** - "Tell us, therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?"
 - 2. With all of these test, and even many more by the Pharisees, Jesus passed them by remaining faithful to God.
- C. The scribes and Pharisees bring a woman to Jesus who has been caught in adultery (**8:2-6**).
 - 1. This test is flawed for two main reasons.
 - a. The motives of the men are not pure (**8:6**).
 - 1) Any time our motives are not pure, our actions are wrong.
 - a) Example of Giving for a tax break.
 - b) Example of donating items so others can see how righteous you are.
 - 2) The Pharisees were not seeking knowledge or advice, they were trying to trick Jesus.

- 3) Notice other occurrences of the intentions of man throughout the Bible.
 - a) **Gen. 6:5** - Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.
 - b) **Pr. 21:27** - The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination; how much more when he brings it with wicked intent!
- 4) God knows the intentions of man.
 - a) As Solomon was being instructed to build the temple by David, notice the warning of intentions that David gives him.
 - b) **I Chr. 28:9** - As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever.
 - c) Their question was flawed, not because of the question itself, but because of the intent behind the question.
- b. The Law of Moses did command that someone caught in the act of adultery should be stoned immediately.
 - 1) However, they do not bring the man with the woman.
 - 2) **Lev. 20:10** - The man who commits adultery with another man's wife, he who commits adultery with his neighbor's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress, shall surely be put to death.
 - 3) Instead of searching for the true meaning of the law, they were trying to trap Jesus.
2. The Pharisees would do anything they could in order to trap Jesus by His own words.

II. Jesus gives an answer to this test of the Pharisees.

- A. Notice the response of Jesus to this test (**8:6-8**).
 1. Jesus stoops to the ground and begins to write with His finger as though He did not hear them.
 2. Jesus then makes a statement that has been used throughout history.
 - a. Whenever someone was found guilty of a crime deserving of death, the one who is the witness of it was to through the first stone at the criminal.
 - b. **Deut. 17:6-7** - Whoever is deserving of death shall be put to death on the testimony of two or three witnesses; he shall not be put to death on the testimony of one witness. {7} The hands of the witnesses shall be the first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people. So you shall put away the evil person from among you.
 - c. This would help to eliminate false witnesses.
 - 1) The conscience of the witness would have to be pure.

3. Jesus is certainly not saying that we cannot condemn sin; but we need to be very careful when it comes to condemning individuals.
4. Jesus again stoops down and wrote on the ground again.
- B. Notice also the response of the Pharisees (8:9).
 1. They were each convicted by their own conscience.
 - a. They knew that they had condemned this woman.
 - b. They also knew that they had done this in order to trap Jesus.
 - c. They did not care anything about the woman and her well-being.
 2. One by one, beginning with the oldest, they left the presence of Jesus.
- C. It was the conscience of the men that convicted them.
 1. Remember, the Pharisees were hypocrites (Mt. 23).
 2. They would say one thing and then do the opposite.
 3. They, along with this woman, were guilty of breaking the Law of Moses.
 4. They could not justify themselves before God.

III. The response of Jesus to the woman after the Pharisees leave (8:10-11).

- A. Jesus finds Himself alone with the woman.
 1. All of those men who had condemned this woman were now gone.
- B. Jesus says that He does not condemn her.
 1. Certainly, Jesus is not approving of what she did.
 2. Jesus is, however, encouraging her to be faithful.
 - a. Jesus came not to condemn, but to save.
 - b. **John 3:17** - For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.
 - c. **Lk. 19:10** - for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.
 3. Jesus tells this woman to “go and sin no more” (9:11).
 - a. Jesus was not commanding this woman to never sin again (although this should be her goal, as it should be ours as well).
 - b. Jesus was telling this woman not to continually live in sin.
 - 1) Remember, she had been brought to Him because of adultery (many times adultery is a continuous sin).
 - 2) **I John 3:4-9**
 - 3) If we are born of God, we do not live continually in sin.

Conclusion:

- A. As we close, notice one final observation from John 8.
 1. This woman now has a second chance on life.
 - a. She could have been killed (legally) because of her sin.
 2. How many times today do we find ourselves with a second chance?
 - a. We may know that we have done something wrong, yet we have another opportunity to do the right thing.
 - b. Forgiveness is a wonderful thing; and God offers it to us through Christ.