

A New Beginning

John 8:1-11 - NKJV

8 But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

² Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them.

³ Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, ⁴ they said to Him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act.

⁵ Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?” ⁶ This they said, testing Him, that they might have *something* of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with *His* finger, as though He did not hear.

⁷ So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, “He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.” ⁸ And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground.

⁹ Then those who heard *it*, being convicted by *their* conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest *even* to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

¹⁰ When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?”

¹¹ She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said to her, ***“Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”***

I want to preach to three different types of people today.

- 1) The ***first*** are those who can say, “Yes I have done everything I could this year for God”. I lived for God the best I could.
- 2) The ***second*** are those that can say there are some areas that I did well and then there are some areas in my walk with God that did not go so well.
- 3) ***Thirdly*** are those that did not do well at all in their walk with God.

To these three groups of people I direct my comments today.

- *I feel that the word of God has some **great news** for those in ***all three groups***.*
- *There is **hope** for you today no matter where you are.*

PRAYER

No doubt **there are questions** in your mind about this new year.

- **What will happen in this New Year?**
- Will the United States go to war?
- Will our shores be invaded this year?
- Will there be another terrorist attack?
- What lies in store for me ***personally***?
- Will this be the year that **the Lord returns** for the church?

Often times during **the beginning of the year** people ask themselves questions about **their own life**.

I'm talking to you this morning about: A New Beginning

At the beginning of the year perhaps more than any other time of the year **we become reflective**, and look back over the year and over our life.

- We think about things that went right and things that went wrong.
- We think about victories and we think about defeats.
- We think about mistakes that we made
- We think about **things we could do over again**

At this time of the year resolutions are made, diets are started, and exercise machines are dusted off and put to use again.

At this time of the year **new things** are tried.

As a Christian this is a time that *we can evaluate our walk with God.*

- Did I give my best to God this past year?
- Did I pray like I should have?
- Did I witness like I should have?
- Did I read the word of God like I should have?
- Did I attend church and was I faithful to God as I should have?
- ***Was God number one in my life?***

Often resolutions are made.

- I will spend more time with my children.
- I will finish those odd jobs around the **house.**
- I will become more productive on my **job.**
- I will become more involved in the **church.**
- I will lose weight and exercise more.
- I will become more faithful in **my daily devotions.**

Resolutions – most people make a few every New Year.

Resolutions are made because people want to see some specific changes in the New Year.

They want to:

- Get to be a ***better person*** - Get ***thinner*** - Get ***smarter*** - ***Improve relationships***

Maybe they want to **learn from the mistakes** of the previous year.

Perhaps they want to **keep hope alive** that ***somehow this new year*** will be **different.**

I'm talking today about: **A New Beginning.**

- I wonder **do you have hope** that **2018 will be different** than 2017?
- Do you feel that there is **the possibility of change** for the better?

Do you feel trapped in the cycle of life that never seems to change?

- Is **today** the same as yesterday,
- Is **this week** the same as last week,
- Is **this month** the same as last month?
- Is **this year** going to be the same as last year?
- ***Do you feel trapped in the routine?***

The saying goes, "**TODAY IS THE FIRST DAY OF THE REST OF YOUR LIFE**".

How true that statement is and how few people really take advantage of it.

- **They are trapped in their yesterdays and in their pasts.**
- With **the help of God** I want to preach to you **about a new beginning** that you can have in your life **starting right now**.
- **Today is a new beginning.**

I want you to know that no matter what the future may hold for you, the **same God that was with you and brought you through in 2017 is still here today to bring you through in 2018.**

His ear is not deaf that he can't hear your cry.

His arm is not too short that he can't reach you at the point of your need.

His eye has not gone blind that he cannot see you.

His power has not diminished that he can't mend your broken life.

His healing virtue has not run dry that he can't heal your body.

His peace has not vanished that he can't still bring you through the storms.

He is still a friend that sticks closer than a brother.

The name of the Lord is still a strong tower that the righteous can run into and be saved.

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise.

Let's praise Him today!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I do not know just when this tragic story, of our scripture text, had its beginning.

Whatever the case was this woman now finds herself in the middle of something that she can't escape from.

They want to stone her right there on the spot but one of the Pharisees said,
"Let's bring her to Jesus and see what he says."

This they did hoping to entrap Jesus and bring discredit to his name.

Their chest was heaving with excitement as they began to drag this woman down the street to where Jesus was.

Finally, when she was a bloody mess, *they threw her at the feet of Jesus*.

They said, *"Master, the Law says she must die. Moses commands that she be stoned*.

But what do you say Jesus?

Here they called him master but just the day before they called him a deceiver.

- This they said tempting him that *they might find occasion to accuse him*.

This account sounds so familiar to most all of us here today.

- That was our life.
- The devil had us bound by *sin* and the *filthy habits* of this world.
- Our iniquity had us all packaged up, *ready to be sent to hell*.
- *The devil brought us* bloodied and broken and paraded us before Jesus *and said they got sin in their life...*
- They *deserve to die*.
- They *deserve* to pay the penalty of sin.

The Bible says the wages of sin is death.

- That's the story of our life.
- That's the condition that we found ourselves in.
- Thrown at the feet of Jesus. 😊

Thrown at his feet:

A sinner - An alcoholic - A drug addict - Involved in immoral relationships -
 Hooked on pornography - Our minds bound by worldly lust - Living our own way
 - No place for God in our life.....

He doesn't offer a word but simply stoops down and begins to write in the sand.

- This woman with the curse of death
- The shame of sin on her.....
- Thinking he's looking for a stone
- She covers her head and begins to weep on what she thinks is the last day.

The Pharisees continue to pressure Jesus to answer them.

They have stones in their hands ready to throw.

Jesus acts like he doesn't even hear them and continues to write in the sand.

Silence fills the air as finally Jesus begins to speak.

He says, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her."

The scribes and Pharisees were so thunderstruck by the words of Jesus that one by one **conviction filled their hearts.**

- You could hear the dull thud of stones - As they began to drop to the ground ***and they all walked away.***
- The guilty woman opens her eyes - All she can see is the **ground covered with stones.**

Jesus asks her, "**Where are your accusers,**" and she responds, "***I have none, they are all gone.***" And then Jesus says, "**I don't condemn you either go and sin no more.**"

What was Jesus saying?

- What he was saying was -
 - You thought this was the end of your life but **it's not.**
 - You thought that this was it the last day of your life but **it's not.**
 - You thought that it was over but **it's not."**
-

Today is a new beginning.

- Today is the first day of the rest of your life.
- This is a new chapter, **go and sin no more.**
- God wants **you to know** that **it's not over** but **it's a new beginning.**

I'm preaching about: "**A New Beginning**" today!!!!!!

There we lay at the feet of Jesus. The accuser of the brethren had cruelly thrown us there.

- The devil said you and I must die.
- We **must pay** the wages of sin.
- But **Jesus stands up** and says, "**Wait just a minute devil, I've already paid the price for his sin.**"

I've already taken care of the penalty of her transgression. AT CALVARY!!!

The song says, “***What can wash away my sin, nothing but the blood of Jesus.***”

Romans 8:31-33 – NKJV - *God’s Everlasting Love*

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

³³ Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? *It is* God who justifies.

The Bible is full of examples of people who didn’t deserve a new beginning.

- But **God** stepped into their life and **gave them a new beginning**.
- **All through** the pages of scripture **God is giving people another chance**.

I’m talking about a new beginning.

Zacchaeus was a tax collector.

- He was one of the most hated men in his day.
- He cheated the people.
- He robbed the people of all of their substance.
- **He had everything** he could ever want.

But still he was an empty man and in need of a change in his life.

- **God gave him a new beginning**.
- **Don’t** remember me as I was –
- **Because Jesus visited my house and gave me a new beginning**.

I’m talking this morning about a new beginning.

Peter was a disciple of Jesus.

- When things got tough Peter folded under the pressure of the crucifixion.
- He denied his master three times and cursed.
- He probably felt like it was all over - He could never serve God again.

But God gave him a new beginning.

- And **Peter** took advantage of **that new beginning**.
- **It was Peter** that **stood on the day of Pentecost** and ***delivered one of the most powerful, convicting messages ever preached.***

I'm preaching about a new beginning.

Saul - He was a **learned man**.

- He was a **Pharisee of the Pharisees**.
- He ***turned his knowledge into persecution*** of the Jews.
- He did everything in his power **to wipe out the church**.

But there was still an emptiness in his life.

- He tried to fill it with more persecution and being more vile.

But there was still something missing.

- ***God gave Saul a new beginning.***
- He **changed his name to Paul**
- **Paul** became one of the greatest apostles in the scripture.

CLOSE:

So many times we find ourselves saying if only I could do it over again.

- If only I could change this thing about my life that happened in the past.
- There is no need to fool yourself.
- You can never go back to the past and change things that have already happened.

But the apostle Paul said forgetting those things **which are behind me** and **reaching to those things** that are before me **I press toward the mark** for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

If Satan can't bewilder you with yesterday, he will try to make you dizzy with tomorrow.

Why? Because he is afraid of right NOW!!! He is afraid of today!!

Praise Team

Aren't you glad that what looks like the last chapter could really be ***the first chapter?*** 😊

God can create a brand new beginning for you.

Perhaps the enemy of your soul has accompanied you here today and he is reminding you of your life.

- Your failures
- Your disappointments
- Your mistakes
- Times when you've fallen down
- Times when you didn't do right
- Times when you gave in to the pressure of sin

He came with stones in his hands.

But Jesus has just stooped down and he is writing in the sand of your life today.

Three types of people - each can have a new beginning!

- 1) The ***first*** are those who can say, "Yes I have done everything I could this year for God". I lived for God the best I could.
- 2) The ***second*** are those that can say there are some areas that I did well and then there are some areas in my walk with God that did not go so well.
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What are you going to do for God in prayer this year?