

The Ministry of Love

Neither Do I Condemn you! - John 8:1-11 NKJV - Jesus the Light of the World

¹But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

²Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them. ³Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, ⁴they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. ⁵Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?" ⁶This 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.

⁷So 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." ⁸And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. ⁹Then 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. ¹⁰When 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?"

¹¹She said, "No one, Lord."

And Jesus said to her, "**Neither do I condemn you**; go and sin no more."

"Neither Do I Condemn YOU"

Definition - Condemn –

- Express complete disapproval of, typically in public; censure.
- To give judgment against, to judge worthy of punishment.
- By one's good example to render another's wickedness the more evident and censurable.

When we read this story...

It appears that some religious people came together for the soul purpose of not only ridding their community of the influence of this woman, but to also trick Jesus to the extent that they could find him guilty of breaking the law and thereby have him condemned.

One of the things that has always bothered me about this story, is that the man who was also caught in the act was somehow not to be condemned as the woman was.

- Somehow his sin was not as bad as hers.
- Somehow the scribes and Pharisees were able to overlook and even forgive his sin, whereas **they condemned** her for it.
- **Same sin = 2 different people = 2 different judgments.**

We might call this a double standard, accept it was pronounced by people who were supposed to be teachers of the law.

- ***These were the preachers.***
- These were the ones you were supposed to be able to trust when it came to handing down the judgments for ***not obeying*** the Word of God.

But apparently there is a different judgment for the man than there was for the woman.

- Maybe the man was someone of influence.
- Maybe he was a big giver to the church.
- Maybe he was somebody important's brother or cousin.
- Maybe he was a scribe or Pharisee himself.
- **Who knows**, the bible doesn't tell us who he was, only that ***the religious people only sought to have the offending woman killed*** and not the offending man.

It's important to understand something about God and sin and us.

- That is, ***If one is guilty of a certain sin, then all are guilty of it*** if they have done it too.
- There is no double standard in **the Word of God**.
- If two people have sinned in the same way, they are ***both guilty*** of that sin.

But evidently this is not understood by the men who brought ***the adulteress woman to Jesus feet*** that day.

Evidently, it's also not understood by many Christians today either.

We all have seen double standards, which seem to do more to cause one to lose their confidence in the ministry than it does **to create unity** and brotherly love in the church.

- I remember an old saying that **my Mom** always said, ***“What’s good for the goose is good for the gander.”***
- Other words, if **one person got caught** and got punished for it, then anyone else who did it should get punished for it too.

If I said double standards does anyone know what I’m talking about?

- If you’ve been in the church for any length of time, you may know what I mean.
- Can I just say, **double standards are a plague** of the church.
- **Nobody** likes **a double standard**.
- And let me just tell you, **Neither does Jesus Christ!**

Here’s how we know, John 8:7 - 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.”**

Jesus let them know right off the bat that **any of them that had no sin** of their own to worry about **should throw the first stone**.

- **He never tried to protect the woman.**
- **He never contested their law.**
- **He never said that the law might be too extreme.**

But in His wisdom, he saved the life of this woman by reminding all ***the scribes and Pharisees*** and all the religious people gathered that day **of their own sin**.

I’m sure **they were confident** that ***they were going to have*** the head of this woman, but **also Jesus** when they began formulating this perfect plan of theirs.

When it was all over, they walked away **reminded of all** the shameful things they had done in their own lives.

Apparently, those religious people had been ***involved in a few things they shouldn't have been*** involved in too.

- Apparently, there was ***a bit of sin going on*** in their lives too.
- Enough anyway, that they left there with their heads down and ***their conscious seared.***

Here's ***what I love*** about Jesus.

- **He was the only one without sin** who could have fulfilled the law,
- **But instead of picking up a stone or even speaking ill towards the woman,**
- ***He simply forgave her*** and said, ***“Neither do I condemn thee.”***

“Wow”, this is amazing to me.

You see, human nature generally does not do this.

Human nature ***usually condemns a person*** who's righteousness does not equal their own.

- **We do it all the time.**
- And many times without even thinking about it.

Some people ***feel condemned*** simply because they think that others righteousness is so great.

- I've had people tell me, ***“Sim, I could never live for God like you.”***
- “Sim, I will never be able to ***serve God like you.***”

Sometimes, you ***don't have to say a word, your righteousness condemns them all by itself.***

Here me, there are people all around us who look at us and ***believe in their hearts that we are somehow better than them*** and that they will never be able to be as good as us.

These people ***condemn themselves*** by assuming that we have no faults or failures in our own life.

But I must ask the question this morning...

- Is there anyone in the house who is ***without sin*** today?
- Is there anyone here today who has ***never made a mistake*** in their life?

If there is one thing that I know beyond a shadow of a doubt.

- **If there is one thing that is absolute** in my understanding today,
- It is that ***I am without a doubt a sinner.***

I am fully aware this morning that ***I am completely dependent on the mercy and grace of God*** for every breath that I take.

- I am not perfect.
- I am a sinner.
- I have no bragging rights.
- I have no reason to think of ***myself better than anyone*** in this room.
- Like the Apostle Paul said, ***“I am the chief of sinners.”***

Understand something today. ***The servant is no better than his master.***

- **Our master became our servant.**
- And if our master has become our servant, who are we???

I'll tell you who **Pastor Sim** is...

- ***He is nothing...***
- ***Without Jesus Christ's forgiveness and mercy today, I am the worst of the worst.***

I wonder if there is **anyone else** here today who hasn't forgotten ***where they come from.***

I wonder if there is anyone else who knows how lost they would be ***without the help of God.***

Have you ever seen one of those ***mirrors that also magnifies?***

I feel today that the Lord would want us to look into one of those here today ***spiritually.***

If we could ever understand our own frailty and sinful nature, ***we would never condemn or judge*** someone else.

There's a reason why ***much of Jesus ministry*** was spent telling people that ***they should not judge*** one another.

Matthew 7:1 - "Judge (condemn) not, that you be not judged."

Matthew 7:2 - For with what judgment (condemnation) ***you judge***, you will be ***judged***; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.

Luke 6:37 - Do Not Judge

³⁷ "***Judge*** not, and you shall not be ***judged***. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven

Listen to what Jesus tells the Pharisees in the same chapter we read from already

John 8:15 - You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one.

- Hear me today church, ***we've got no right*** to judge anyone.
- If Jesus Himself is not going to judge them in this world, neither should we.

When we see someone ***who's life is not going the way God would want it to go...***

- **We are better to** have empathy towards them than self-righteous condemnation.

Here me, ***you will never win*** that family member as long as you think yourself better than them.

- This church ***will never reach anyone*** we feel ourselves superior too.

You know there is an attitude We have here at MY Church.

• ***That attitude is forgiveness. - That attitude is grace.***
It's the attitude that loves people in spite of where they are at spiritually.

It's the attitude that embraces and reaches out to anyone who would desire to know Jesus.

If you're here to tell people **how righteous we are**, wrong church.

If we're **here to condemn** others with **our own righteousness or self-righteousness** -

- Realize here that there is **not a single one of us** who are anywhere close to being perfect.
- We realize that **without His grace**, we are **all condemned** sinners.

I don't know about you, but ***I want to love people like Jesus loved them.***

- It might be someone **caught in the very act**.
- They might be as **guilty** as they can possibly be, but in the end, I want to be able to say to them, ***"This church loves you."***
- ***"This church cares."***
- ***"This church wants to help."***

As pastor, I want to know that **I can pick up the phone anytime day or night** and say to you, ***"I have someone who has made a real mess of their life, but they need our help. Can you help me help them?"***

I need to know that the church I attend and am part of is ***a church that will love people regardless*** of **where they are coming from** or **what they've done**.

- And I want you to know also that **God is going to test us** on this.
- We can say it all day long, but **He is going to bring people into this place who He is going to use to test our willingness to love unconditionally.**
- He's going to put some folks in our path that some of us would find **easy to judge or condemn**, and He's going to find out real quick **if we genuinely love and care for them**

CLOSE: There's **an attitude** that Jesus displayed constantly.

- It **confounded the religious people** of His day.
- It was a ***"Neither Do I Condemn Thee"*** Attitude.

Everywhere he went, people found that although **He had reason to, He never condemned or judged** them.

- Whether it was the adulteress woman,
- Or the divorcee at the Samaritan well
- Or Peter after he denied knowing the Lord on the day of His crucifixion.

- **Even the thief on the cross although condemned by society found himself in the presence of God on the day of Christ's death.**

Romans chapter 8 is one of **the pinnacles of Christian Truth**. The Apostle Paul begins by proclaiming that there is **No condemnation** for those who are in Christ

Romans 8:1 - *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*

PRAISE TEAM:

- **If you're ready** to lay it all down on the altar today, Jesus is ready to forgive you.

- **There's no reason** for you to leave here today bound by the oppression and weight and guilt of your sins, Jesus is ready to forgive you.