

John 7:53-8:11

The challenge to Jesus (7:53-8:6a)

What do you notice about how this is carried out? What's happening?

- Note that the challengers say that “such women” should be stoned. In the law, the adulterous man and the woman were *both* held accountable (Lev. 20:10, Deut. 22:22-24)
- Also note that this law wasn't being followed at the time of Jesus. The accusers are using the woman as a way to test or trap Jesus.
- Why is this a trap? If Jesus stopped the stoning, he would look like he was invalidating the law of Moses. If he approved the stoning, he would be challenging Roman authority.

The response of Jesus to his challengers (8:6b-9)

What do you notice about how this plays out?

How might the scribes and Pharisees might have been impacted by this incident?

The response of Jesus to the woman (10-11)

What's the significance of the questions Jesus asks the woman?

What thoughts does he send her away with?

It's recorded in Matthew that Jesus said that he did not come to abolish the law but fulfill it. Does this incident contradict that? Is he undermining the commandment against adultery?

How does this verse connect with this story?

“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.” (John 3:17-18)

“Jesus does not in fact imply that the woman's sin can be glossed over, or that it can be lightly forgiven without any payment of the penalty it deserved. On the contrary, Jesus himself was going to pay that penalty, the penalty not only of the woman's sins, but of the sins of her accusers, and indeed the sins of all mankind, by suffering in her place and in theirs a criminal death.” –R.V.G. Tasker, *John*

To think about...

How are you like the accusers?

How are you like the woman?

Resources

EPC position on human sexuality: Search EPC human sexuality position paper, or go to epc.org/file/beliefs/positionpapers/PreliminaryPositionPaper-HumanSexuality.pdf

Strengthening your marriage

Marriage Matters: Extraordinary Change Through Ordinary Moments by Winston Smith

What Did You Expect: Redeeming the Realities of Marriage by Paul Tripp

Each for the Other by Bryan and Kathy Chapell

Homosexuality

Washed and Waiting by Wes Hill

Secrets of an Unlikely Convert by Rosaria Butterfield

What Does the Bible Really Teach about Homosexuality? by Kevin De Young

Same-Sex Marriage: A Thoughtful Approach to God's Design for Marriage by McDowell and Stonestreet

Domestic abuse

The Emotionally Destructive Marriage by Leslie Vernick

How to Act Right When Your Spouse Acts Wrong by Leslie Vernick

Bold Love by Dan Allender

Shorter reads on marital intimacy, sexual sin, pornography, guilt, conflict and other topics, see selection at MTB or www.ccef.org/resources/minibooks

Relational support

MTB Cares - To connect MTB women with each other and with Knox and community resources.

Angela Knedgen, ajknedgen@gmail.com, 989.430.6563

Kristin Wong, kristinwong@frontier.com, 734.429.3862

Knox Marriage and Family Pastor Tom Robinson: trobinson@knoxannarbor.org, 734.761.5669

Counseling

Crossroads Counseling: Jennifer Rich and others, info@crossrd.com, 734.929.9703

Family Counseling Center: fccannarbor.net, 734.477.9999

Washtenaw Biblical Counseling: Kristin Wong and Lisa Branton, washtenawbiblicalcounseling.com, 734.429.3862 (Kristin)

Personal Reflection

If Jesus said to you “neither do I condemn you; now go and sin no more” in the context of your marriage or other intimate relationships – to what would he be referring? If you really took in both of these statements, how might it change your life?

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| I envy someone else’s marriage or covet her husband. I compare what seem to be the strengths of another’s husband with the weakness of mine. | |
| I allow thoughts of eye-rolling contempt for my husband to fester and grow. | |
| When I’m angry with my husband, I talk to friends who will let me indulge my resentment. | |
| I’m not working on growing companionship with my husband; it just seems like too much effort. | |
| This week, my sense of the happiness of my marriage has come from how it’s worked for me. | |
| I belittle my husband in front of others. | |
| I take advantage of my husband’s weaknesses to manipulate situations and get what I want. | |
| I’m avoiding a conversation I should have with my husband because I know it will be hard. | |
| I try to escape real life with my husband with fantasy fiction, romantic TV, or pornography. | |
| I’ve let myself get emotionally or physically closer to another man than I know is good. | |
| I use physical intimacy (or lack of physical intimacy) to manipulate or to withhold affection. | |
| I should talk to a friend who is breaking marriage vows or participating in sexual sin, but I’m afraid. | |
| Past sexual sin stays in my mind and desires. | |

Prayer of confession and assurance of pardon

Leader:

God, I have broken faith with you and with my husband. I have been self-centered and tried to grasp at and manipulate intimate relationships to get what I desire. I have withheld love where I should be giving it, and given love where I shouldn't. I have allowed resentment and impatience and discontent to grow. I've coveted the husbands and marriages of others and neglected my own. I've also neglected or disdained the call of your Word when it conflicts with my desires.

Group 1:

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

Group 2:

Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.
Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

Leader:

Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.
Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

Group 1:

Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.
Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Group 2:

Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you.
Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior,
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.
Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise.

All:

You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.
My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.

Leader:

God thank you for forgiving and cleansing me wholly by your perfect sacrifice of love on the cross. I ask for your mercy for renewed love for you and for my husband. You've called me out of darkness into your wonderful light. I re-commit my life to your will. Help me increasingly become the faithful, holy, and loving woman you are making me to be.

Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you? Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more." (*Scripture from Psalm 51 and John 8:10-11*)