



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“JOHN 7:53-8:11”

CONNECT

How did last week's passage we read/discussed affect your week?

DISCOVER

- What did the passage say (in your own words) or what impacted you/did you take away from the sermon this week?
- How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?
- Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn't understand, phrases that didn't make sense, etc.)?

John 7:53 – 8:11 In today's passage we hear the story of the 'Woman Caught in Adultery' and find it easy to jump to judgment or think we would never do something that terrible. But what if others (or select people) could read your mind, ALL the time? That just might shape our lives a little differently, nurture our humility level a LOT, and put a lid on our urge to easily judge others! For this discussion, we are going to examine each person or people group as the story develops – what they might have been thinking at any given point in the story, why they might be responding a certain way, what it showed us about that person's character by their responses, and what we can learn about ourselves as Christ followers in the way we live and respond to situations around us!

1. First, read the entire passage. If you were staging this story as a stage play, how many different 'scenes' would you have?
2. Read John 8:1: The word "But" is used in regard to Jesus going to the Mt of Olives. What do you think Jesus was thinking when everyone else went home BUT He went to the Mt of Olives? Why would He go there?
3. Verse 2 tells us Jesus went to the temple courts, where people came to Him, and He taught. Why did He choose to go there? What were the people who gathered there looking for – why did they gather around Him?
4. Read Leviticus 20:10. Then consider Vs. 3-5 and what MIGHT HAVE gone through these peoples' minds at this part of the story:
 - What was going through the minds of the scribes and Pharisees? How do you think they felt about their 'case' they were presenting? How did they view the people gathered there, the woman, the situation, and most of all, Jesus? What do you think of their choice of a way to trap Jesus? What do you think of their version of Moses' Law from Leviticus?
 - What was going through the mind of the woman? What emotions and questions might she have been thinking and feeling about her situation? Why? Consider many different reactions....but regardless, what would she have seen about the outcome of this display? (How are we led to believe when we enter into a sinful decision that no one else would be affected?)
 - What was going through the minds of the different people watching all of this? What do you think they were mumbling to one another about this adulterer? If there were women in the crowd, what might they be thinking? What if some of them had committed the same sin but had NOT been caught? What about the men? What were the scribes and Pharisees showing THEM? How many in the crowd might have been ready to condemn the woman right then, according to what they just heard? How many might have already picked up a stone?
 - Jesus – what do you think might have been in His heart as He saw this scene taking place? Even though He knew all this would happen, the human side of Him had to experience emotional responses about everyone present. Here were those scribes and Pharisees, AGAIN! Here was a woman caught in a sin that violated Moses' Law – how was He to feel about that? He could hear the crowd reaction – what would He want them to learn about Him from this scene?



SERMON STUDY GUIDE CONT.

- Have you or someone close to you ever been caught or called out for a sinful act – something clearly wrong – and had to endure other people learning about it? What kinds of feelings can that generate? How does a person feel about being called out? What immediate responses do some people give? OR What if you HEARD about a brother or sister in Christ getting caught – what is your immediate response toward that person and what he/she had done? What is the lesson for us in this section of the narrative?
5. TWICE Jesus bent to write in the sand with His finger. Why do you think He might have chosen that action at that time rather than speaking? What do you think He might have been writing? How do you think those gathered – the people, the scribes and Pharisees, and the woman each felt upon seeing what Jesus was doing?
 6. Read Vs. 7. Jesus STOOD and spoke those words – “Let him who is WITHOUT SIN among you cast the first stone.” What do you think the scribes and Pharisees thought about that? About their drama being diffused? About NOT trapping Jesus? What might the woman have been thinking upon hearing this? Do you think she could even imagine what was about to happen? And among the people in the crowd – what varying responses might/did they have had? How might their perception of Jesus have changed in the last few minutes as they walked away? How about their perceptions of themselves? What were they learning about the religious leaders, the adulterous woman, and who Jesus was? Does this verse leap into your mind as a filter every time you begin to criticize or judge another? How much self-control would it take for you to see people through Jesus’ eyes – to love as He loves, and apply that filter to your thoughts?
 7. The woman was left alone with Jesus.....what must she have been thinking at that point? What might she have been thinking as Jesus responded to her in Vs 11, especially when He said “from now on, sin no more”? What did Jesus MEAN when He said, ‘from now on....’ and “sin no more.”? What does it mean when He says that to US? How can we do that?
 8. This morning we sang these words: “Who the Son sets free, oh is free indeed!” Why was that such a fitting song for today’s scripture? How important do you think it was for this story to be included in Scripture, especially in the Book of John? In telling this story, what FACTS has John given us to learn more about who Jesus is, about how we can strive to be more like Him, and about how we can obediently live out our purpose as we love God and love people?

RESPOND

- How does this passage encourage you, challenge you, or change you in your efforts to become more like Jesus?
- What is one thing you learned about yourself from God’s Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?
- Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.

PRAY

... for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.