

An Encounter of Abundant Grace

John 8:2-11

John 3:17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

vs. 2, Jesus was at the temple teaching.

vs. 3, Scribes and Pharisees -> one who served as an expert in the Jewish law. They had assumed the role of a lawyer, ethicist, and theologian. They were Pharisees by conviction.

The role of Mosaic law was central to the lives of Palestinian Jews.

A woman who had been caught in adultery

The narrative is told through a lens of gender inequality.

The accusers are chauvinistic only to focus on the woman.

vs. 4-6

The religious leaders are not concerned with

- adultery
- justice
- wholeness
- compassion
- forgiveness
- life change

They simply see the situation as a great scenario to set a trap for Jesus.

Deuteronomy 13:9 But you shall kill him. Your hand shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hand of all the people.

Deuteronomy 17:7 The hand of the witnesses shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hand of all the people. So you shall purge the evil from your midst.

vs. 7-8, Jesus responds

Jesus knows the law.

Jesus knows the schemes of the Scribes.

Jesus knows the woman.

Concerning the Law

There are many relevant questions?

Concerning the Scribes and Pharisees

- Everything about this situation is intended to set mercy and justice as opposing principles.
- It was much easier to sue for a Jewish divorce than to engage in mob violence under Roman rule.
- Reasons for divorce were rigorously debated. From indecency to not being a good cook.
 - The woman was far more vulnerable legally and socially.
 - The man could continue to live his life and society would ignore his sin.
- The religious leaders were using people as pawns to demonstrate their perceived rightness.

Jesus speaks directly to the double standard.

In **Matthew 19:1-11**

Lifelong, monogamous, Male / Female (one flesh).

He is speaking against the whims of male pride and selfishness.

Jesus begins to write on the ground.
What did he write? No one knows. And there is a whole lot of speculation.

Jeremiah 17:13 O Lord, the hope of Israel, all who forsake you shall be put to shame; those who turn away from you shall be written in the earth, for they have forsaken the Lord, the fountain of living water.

Exodus 23: 1, 7 You shall not spread a false report. You shall not join hands with a wicked man to be a malicious witness. **7** Keep far from a false charge, and do not kill the innocent and righteous, for I will not acquit the wicked.

We don't know what he wrote, but we do know what he said!
vs. 7, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her."
Jesus goes beyond Deuteronomy 17:7. Not simply a witness, but if you are without sin.

Concerning the Woman

Jesus is not excusing sin. He is forgiving sin.
He is offering the grace of God.
She is provided the beauty of walking into transformation.

From this point forward live in the freshness of Jesus Centrality.

Acts 3:19-20 Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, **20** that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord

Luke 5:32 I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.

Revelation 3:3 Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent.

John 3:17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

This is the model for the Church's attitude toward the broken and the power of the gospel.

Grace is undeserved.
Because of grace forgiveness is available.
Grace is a deep breath into new life.

Question: In your approach to people and situations is human dignity highly valued?
When has your perceived rightness been an obstacle for genuine spiritual growth and or relational growth?
Are you a person who is quick to extend grace? Why or why not?

What does it mean for you to live in repentance from this day forward?