



**Sermon Series:** He Changed Me, Part 3

**Sermon Title:** The Woman

**Date:** 3/26/2023

**John 8:1-11**

**Big idea: If you want someone to meet Jesus, first drop your rock.**

There are several steps involved.

**1<sup>st</sup> Step: Model Christ's Compassion**

Some of us barely remember life before coming to Christ at an early age. Others experienced a dramatic 180-degree life change. Like what Paul describes in **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**

Is there anything from your past with which you still struggle? Does it affect the way God sees you or your position before Him? - No  
Let's turn our attention back to John 8, in which the religious leaders bring to Jesus the woman caught in adultery. This account takes place at the Temple, where people would come to experience redemption. Instead, the religious people are there armed with rocks. There's a big crowd. Something noteworthy... The woman is alone. Where's the man in this story? The woman was just a pawn. **John 8:4-6**

They were trying to trap Jesus. If He says, "Yes," the woman loses her life. If He says "No," He loses his credibility as a keeper of The Law of Moses. The tension builds. He stoops and writes on the ground with his finger (**John 8:7-8**). Jesus doesn't defend the woman's adultery; He just says, "If you're perfect, feel free to throw a rock."

They walk away, likely in frustrated embarrassment. **John 8:9-11**  
Jesus responds to her shame with mercy & grace. John 8:11  
Imagine that. The only one who could have righteously thrown a stone chose not to.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Step: Invite People to Receive Grace**  
**John 8:10-11a**

In a short while, Jesus will go to the cross, bearing her sin. So he can rightly say, in effect, “Not guilty.” Freedom from guilt precedes anything the woman could do. He offers grace, and she receives it. In addition, we don’t just talk about the good news of salvation. We tell people how to receive it. When someone trusts Christ as Savior, you have biblical authority to tell them they are forgiven. **John 20:23**

When someone comes to Christ, that person may still struggle with sinful patterns. But their emotional response to such relapses will change. Instead of delight, there will be grief. When the gospel “Takes” in a person’s life, that person will adopt an entirely new attitude toward their sin. That’s the essence of what we call “godly sorrow.”

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Step: Encourage people to walk with God** **John 8:11**

Don’t treat the invitation to salvation as if it’s “Mission accomplished.” We need to help to cement the change that has taken place in their life. It’s part of what it means to make disciples. **Matthew 28:20**

Here are several useful follow-up strategies.

- **Meet with the new believer within 24-48 hours.** Review what they did to trust Jesus as their Savior.
- **Make sure they have a Bible.** You can offer them a free Bible from Grace. Challenge them to read the gospel of John.
- **Set a time to meet again**
- **Invite them to your small group and/or to sit with you in worship.**

What about the person who is trapped in sin, like the woman Jesus rescued in John 8? The Bible commands us in **Galatians 6:1** - Encourage the person to be accountable to you.

- If they have an addiction issue, recommend a fellowship that will be helpful to them (Uplift at Grace; AA; sex addicts group?).
- Remain in contact with the person and faithfully pray for them.

Think about how Jesus treated the woman. Who wouldn’t want to know a God like that? Drop your “rock.” You can love the person without approving the sin in their life. **Be less tolerant of your own sin and more tolerant of sin in others.**

### **Discussion Questions:**

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **What do you think Jesus wrote on the ground? Do you think it influenced the people to drop their stones? Explain**
- **What is the difference between how a Christian and a non-Christian view their sin?**
- **Do you know any believers who struggle with the same sinful patterns they had before they were saved? What advice or guidance can you give them?**
- **What practical steps can you take to help a new Christian grow in his or her faith?**
- **Describe how your life has changed since you became a Christian**