

**Free from shame (Slide)**  
**Woman in adultery**  
**John 8 vs 2-11**

**John 8 vs 2-11 (slide)**

<sup>2</sup> At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. <sup>3</sup> The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group <sup>4</sup> and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. <sup>5</sup> In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” <sup>6</sup> They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. <sup>7</sup> When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” <sup>8</sup> Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

<sup>9</sup> At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. <sup>10</sup> Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”

<sup>11</sup> “No one, sir,” she said.

“Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”

This is the kingdom of God that I am a part of. This is the One whose authority I live under.

Let’s learn some things from the three main characters in this encounter

**1. The Accuser (Legalist)- the power to condemn (slide)**

Legalists- Teachers of law and Pharisees. We met them last week at the pool of Bethesda and here they are again

The issue when I am a legalist is that I place the law above an individual.

Last week we looked at why the Jewish leaders were so anti Jesus. But why did Jesus see them as the enemy? Who is the enemy of God? Who does He oppose?

## **James 4 vs 6 “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” (slide)**

What does that say to **any form** of pride in me? There is a high price to pay for pride over humility. Where does being judgmental come from? A place of pride or humility? Pride is the fuel of judgment. This, among other things, is why these legalists were the enemies of Jesus.

This incident had nothing to do with this woman and her sin (vs 6). They didn't care about this woman, she was just a pawn so they could get at Christ. She is part of the trap. Think of how far they had wandered from the original intention of the law. People are now treated as objects of shame. How did they land here?

She should have been kept in a private place until all the facts were gained and judgement could be passed. They abuse the law they say they are claiming to uphold.

SO they set Jesus up and think they have Him trapped

Whatever answer Jesus gave they could accuse Him. If he said she was not guilty He would be guilty of breaking the Jewish law. If she was guilty and should be stoned, he would be breaking roman law which did not consider adultery worthy of death.

Jesus knew their hearts. They couldn't keep their own standards and so He exposed their own hypocrisy...“he who is without sin” they condemn themselves.

What did Jesus write in the sand? It creates good discussion but if God wanted us to know He would have told us. Whatever He write certainly affected them.

My thought is that it had something to do with exposing their own failure to keep the law. No witnesses, where is the other person? To pass judgment you needed this. They themselves were breaking the law on a number of levels.

### **Is there a place for judgement by man?**

Don't judge someone till you have walked a mile in their shoes. Then you are a mile away and you have their shoes.

What advice does Jesus give regarding throwing stones/passing judgment? This incident is the very outworking of His teaching in Matthew 7 about judging.

## **Matt 7 vs 2-5 (slide)**

**“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. <sup>2</sup> For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? <sup>4</sup> How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? <sup>5</sup> You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.**

It is risky to appoint yourself as a judge. Make sure you are without fault.

## **Romans 2 vs 1 (slide)**

**2 You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things**

One of the most common faults in life is that so many of us demand standards from others that we never even try to meet ourselves; and so many of us condemn faults in others which are glaringly obvious in our own lives. ( How easily I look at failed leaders and judge them instead of praying for them).

Every time you find yourself want to judge others, first take time judge yourself (very time you point your finger, how many are pointing back at you?)... how much of this is in my heart? Acknowledge your own guilt, sin repent of it.... As I go on my own journey discovering my sinfulness then I will have a proper perspective on the person I am judging and will deal with them in a way that is appropriate... when marked with humility it looks so different. Do you realize what this would do for our relationships if we lived this out?

(notice how far from this the accusers are.)

The very facts of the human situation mean that only God has the right to judge, for the simple reason that no man is good enough to judge any other.

Can I suggest the safest option for all of us? Let’s leave our stones at home and leave judgement to the only one who is qualified.

## James 4 vs 12 (slide)

**<sup>12</sup> There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy.**

### **2. The woman (Shame)- the power to hide (slide)**

If ever you had a cringing picture of shame it is here. We all live with the threat of feeling embarrassed or ashamed and avoid it like the plague. (The unconscious question is always “ what are people thinking and saying about me/us?”) Life groups...make me clean my house ( kids so you don't want them to see how we really live. What about modelling authenticity and transparency?...very clever, go clean your room. We don't realize it but avoiding shame is the driver of some much of our behavior.

The goal of shame is to remain hidden, that's what keeps it alive. My failures and faults need to stay hidden. There is an arab proverb “A concealed shame is two thirds forgiven.”

So, in order to never have to feel shame I hide like Adam and Eve. I hide so I don't have to face the rejection I anticipate if someone knew the truth (“If they really knew this about me...”). So we keep our secrets and they control us and make us miserable. Shame is the big lock that keeps us from opening the door to our hidden secrets. This is the great deception. As long as it is hidden shame can thrive and cause chaos in my inner world.

**“ We are only as sick as the secrets we keep. Shame is committed to keeping us sick.” Curt Thompson (slide)**

SO, getting caught is the worst possible thought. She was caught...have you ever been caught? Talk about shame. Me with Leanne ( worse if not caught). Being caught is actually a gift because it can no longer remain hidden in that lonely place of torment.

William Young abuser

When this women woke up little did she know that the exposure of her shame was to be the opportunity to find freedom and redemption. Who would have

wanted that day to happen and yet it was the last day shame would hold her captive.

“where are you accusers?” When we have the courage to face up to our shame the accuser no longer has a voice.

Do you know that there is actually no such thing as a secret? You can't keep anything hidden. IS there anything God doesn't know about you? Could Adam and Eve really hide from Him? Woman at the well...He knew everything about her. He knows all my sin and yet still gives Himself for me.

Walk in light as He is in the light? Satan can only hold me ransom to what remains in the darkness. It's my so called secrets that He will use to undermine my faith and confidence in Jesus and what I can do for Him. Its shame that make me create an impostor where I try to put on the good show and be someone I am not.

Me/ Jazzy J. My respect for him only grew greater because of his courage to be honest. AA, support groups, CLG, when you can belong to a community of Jesus followers that doesn't judge, that loves you for who you are and not what you have done ...shame can no longer exist.

The beauty of Jesus is that He knows the devastation of shame so He took it all on the cross for us.

### **Hebrews 12 vs 2 (slide)**

**For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God**

The cross represents the face of shame...Jesus faced it head in right there. The two bondages of guilt and shame we broken at the cross.

### **Romans 10 vs 11 (slide)**

**<sup>11</sup> As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.”**

When I am free from these two bondages I am free to be me ,I am free to be transparent. I am free to be authentic because shame no longer drives who I am or how I behave. That is why as a believer these no longer need to play a part in my life. The strongholds of guilt and shame were rendered powerless at the cross.

### **Colossians 2 vs 13-15 (slide)**

**<sup>13</sup> When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you<sup>[d]</sup> alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, <sup>14</sup> having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.<sup>[e]</sup>**

The cross has rendered the accuser powerless and mute. He is disarmed and no longer can accuse me.

If you are carrying any guilt or shame today it's because it's not under the cross yet... bring it to Him bring it to the light

### **3. Jesus (Grace)- the power to forgive (slide)**

As you watch Him in this scene is there any evidence of shame in the way He speaks about or to the woman? Are there any words of judgement? Instead He goes about dismantling the power of shame. Of all the people present Jesus is the only One actually permitted to throw stones because He was without sin.

Jesus amazing response. He spoke of throwing a stone which would satisfy the law. He focused on who was qualified to throw the stone

Did Jesus condemn her at any point? Why not? She was guilty right?. The law had already condemned her. Did Jesus condone her behavior at any point?

It is critical to get this distinction right today. Not judging or condemning doesn't mean I condone. Jesus still called her sin out. "leave your life of sin." Grace does not mean finding sinful behavior acceptable. At no point is Jesus saying that her action was acceptable. In fact He upheld the law with His words. At this moment Jesus (a Rabbi, a religious leader) displays the kingdom of God with a radical statement "Neither do I condemn you".

### **John 3 vs 17 (slide)**

**<sup>7</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.**

Every one of us stands guilty and condemned before Him. What does He do?

**1 John 2 vs 1-2 (slide)**

**My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. <sup>2</sup> He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.**

Grace offers a path to freedom, forgiveness and healing. It's now up to her to choose the way of grace.

Jesus has bought us our choice back. The power to say NO. In Him I am able to leave my life of sin. When I encounter Christ I encounter a power greater than what I am enslaved to. The choice I make is Him to be enslaved to. So, the first step is not...I will just stop. The First step is choosing Him over everything else. Then He in you becomes the power that gives you choice.

“Apart from me you can do nothing”

That's why I can never judge because But for His grace.... But for Him in me..

## **Conclusion**

So will you choose to leave your life of sin. Surrender...come and follow Jesus

Are you here today sitting with guilt and shame and a secret place that holds you captive. It may be an event that took place, a sinful struggle, a job loss, feeling like you are failing as a husband or dad. Shame takes many forms. There is nothing good about shame. The cross is here for you.

Come and leave your guilt and shame at the cross. Silence the accuser That's why it cost Him so much.

Write it out and leave it here

Write the name of someone you trust so you can get it in the light

Prayer here and in the prayer room