

## He Leads With Mercy

During April we're looking at how Jesus saves our life. How does the story of the woman caught in adultery in John 8 fit into the idea of saving our life? *Certainly, Jesus saved the woman's life that day.* What does His interaction with her teach us? How does this connect to coming to associate Cornerstone as a place to heal?

### I. John 7.1-8.2 - The Background

- A. 7.14 - Jesus begins to teach in the temple. The Feast of Booths is going on.
  - 1. 7.28-30 - He is the Christ and that He was sent from the Father.
  - 2. 7.37-44 - more teaching. Divided reaction. 7.45-52 - Pharisees want to arrest Jesus.
- B. 8.2 - Early the next morning, Jesus goes back to the temple. Sits down to teach.

### II. John 8.3-6a - The Dilemma

- A. 8.3-6a - A woman...*caught in the act of **adultery***, minus her partner, shoved in front of Jesus in the middle of the temple court with all the people around.
- B. 8.5-6a - *In the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do **you** say?*

### III. John 8.6b-11 - How Jesus Responds

- A. 8.6b - Jesus bends down and writes on the ground
- B. 8.7a - They ***persisted*** in questioning Him. Urgent. They want an answer.
- C. 8.7b - *Let him who is **without sin** among you be the first to throw a stone at her.*
- D. 8.8 - back to drawing on the ground. They were adulterers, too.
- E. 8.9a - They begin to slither away. Starting with the older ones.
  - 1. 8.9b - Who stayed? The woman.
  - 2. 8.10 - Two questions: **Where** are her accusers? Had anyone officially condemned her?
  - 3. 8.11a - Her answer: **No one.**
  - 4. 8.11b - Jesus: ***Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.***

### IV. Three Things for Us:

- A. Give Attention to How You Use Your Authority
  - 1. When someone sins, from what perspective do you use your authority?
  - 2. Our first duty is to move with sympathy. Our second duty is to restore.
- B. It Has to be Personal
  - 1. 8.5-6b - Scribes & Pharisees did not regard the personhood of this woman.
  - 2. People are more than things ... and praise God that He seeks to know us in a very personal way. Exodus 33.17 - *I know you by **name**.*
- C. Jesus is all about Your Future ... not Your Past
  - 1. Pity, not condemnation. *What can I do to help? How can I mitigate your circumstances?*
  - 2. Guilty, but forgiven. *Neither do I **condemn** you*, he does not mean she wasn't guilty. What she did mattered, but Jesus is now looking at her future.
  - 3. *Go and from now on **do not sin** anymore.* Quit sinning.

### V. As We Close

- A. *From now on do not sin anymore.*

- B. Your story is unfinished. Your past... it doesn't matter. All that matters is what you do in this moment ... and how you respond to God. *Every life is unfinished until it stands before God.*