

NOT MY JESUS

Reclaiming the Truth, Rejecting the Idols LESSON 3 – NON-JUDGMENTAL JESUS

*"At dawn he went to the temple again, and all the people were coming to him. He sat down and began to teach them. ³ Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery, making her stand in the center. ⁴ "Teacher," they said to him, "this woman was caught in the act of committing adultery. ⁵ In the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" ⁶ They asked this to trap him, in order that they might have evidence to accuse him. Jesus stooped down and started writing on the ground with his finger. ⁷ When they persisted in questioning him, he stood up and said to them, "The one without sin among you should be the first to throw a stone at her." ⁸ Then he stooped down again and continued writing on the ground. ⁹ When they heard this, they left one by one, starting with the older men. Only he was left, with the woman in the center. ¹⁰ When Jesus stood up, he said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" ¹¹ "No one, Lord," she answered. "Neither do I condemn you," said Jesus. "Go, and from now on do not sin anymore." **John 8:1-11 (CSB)***

Taken Out Of Context

1. Many people believe in a **non-judgmental** Jesus who only loves and never corrects. This Jesus is always tolerant and accepting of all lifestyles and choices. He's okay with however we decide to live our lives.
2. It's completely true that Jesus is perfectly loving. In fact, the Bible says that **"God is love"** **1 John 4:16**.

- A. The word used more than any other to describe God in the Bible is **holy**. Because **Jesus is holy**, He cares about how we live. He loves us so much that He calls us *away from sin* and to Himself.

Quote ~ "God loves you simply because He has chosen to do so. He loves you when you don't feel lovely. He loves you when no one else loves you. Others may abandon you, divorce you, and ignore you, but God will love you always. No matter what!" ~ **Max Lucado**

- B. The real Jesus loves us so much and is so holy that He can't just overlook our **sin**.

*"All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. ⁴ Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. ⁵ But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. ⁶ No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him. ⁷ Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous." **1 John 3:3-7 (NIV)***

Transforms Sinners

1. In John chapter 8 detail another well-known and often misused story from the Scriptures. It is a beautiful moment from Jesus's ministry, but if we miss what's happening here, we end up with a **false** version of Jesus.
2. This passage conveys deep **truths** about Jesus's character and ministry. When read, taught, and understood properly, this story emphasizes the grace, wisdom, and holiness of the real Jesus, who alone has the **authority** to forgive sin.

*"But I want you **to** know that the Son of Man has **authority** on earth **to forgive sins**." **Matthew 9:6a (NIV)***

- A. His character **confronts** the religious as well as the sinful.
3. The law from the Old Testament required that **both** the man and the woman involved in adultery be punished *“If a man commits adultery with a married woman—if he commits adultery with his neighbor’s wife—both the adulterer and the adulteress must be put to death.” **Leviticus 20:10 (CSB)***, yet only the woman is presented to Jesus.
- A. This shows that the religious leaders didn’t truly care about the application of the law. Instead of falling into their **trap**, Jesus paused and wrote something on the ground (v. 6).
4. Then, in verse 7, with a simple statement, Jesus turns the tables on the Pharisees. His response upholds the law while exposing the **hypocrisy** of the accusers.
- **Religious hypocrisy** refers to the act of claiming to have moral standards or beliefs to which one’s own behavior does not conform.
- A. Jesus is not dismissing the law’s requirements but pointing to the deeper issue: the **heart** condition of the accusers.

Quote ~ I will not deny but that the best apology against false accusers is silence and sufferance, and honest deeds set against dishonest words.” ~ **John Milton**

Jesus saves us and then, through the power of His spirit, for the rest of our lives, He sanctifies us. Every single day, He is making us more and more like Him.