

Raising The Bar
John 8:1-11
Gospel According to John, Week 11
March 22, 2026
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What do you do when you're battling guilt and regret?

"At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them." John 8:2 (NIV)

The Pharisees thought they had a captive audience, which they did – only Jesus is about to turn the tables on them.

Pharisees Are Targeting Jesus

"Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. What do you say?"
John 8:4 (NIV)

Where Is the Dude?

OT Law –
Leviticus 20:10 - *"...both the adulterer and the adulteress shall be put to death.*

Deuteronomy 22:22 - *"...both of them shall die."*

For now, there is zero grace, zero humility, and zero compassion – which means there is zero law-keeping.

Own Your Own Junk

"But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger."
John 8:6b

Jesus doesn't argue with them. His *actions* are his *apologetics*.

Perhaps a reference to Jeremiah –

"...Those who turn away from you will be written in the dust because they have forsaken the Lord, the spring of Living Water."

Jeremiah 17:13 (NIV)

Jesus is raising the bar to make way for grace.

Gather Stones

"...If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her."
John 8:7b (NIV)

Casting the first stone deterred a mob mentality.

OT Law –
"The hands of the witnesses must be the first in putting him to death..."
Deuteronomy 17:6-7 (NIV)

You can't hit what you can't see – because of the LOG in your eye.

"You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye..."
Matthew 6:5 (NIV)

The best way to not be judgmental is not to **excuse** the sin of others, but to **expose** your own sin - under the magnifying lens of God's grace.

Conviction versus Condemnation

"Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you? No one sir, she said. Then neither do I condemn you, Jesus declared. Go now and leave your life of sin."

John 8:10-11 (NIV)

When you recognize you've been forgiven much – ***you forgive much.***

Jesus exalts himself above the law of Moses, changes its appointed punishment, and reestablishes righteousness on the foundation of grace.

Come to Him for grace, and set your face to sin no more.