

A close-up photograph of a hand holding an open book. The book is held vertically, and the pages are slightly fanned out. A bright, golden light source is positioned behind the book, creating a dramatic lens flare effect with several rays of light extending upwards and outwards. The background is dark, making the light and the book stand out. The overall mood is one of illumination and knowledge.

BOOK *of* JOHN

GRACE OR THE LAW

JOHN 8:1-11

There is a bit of controversy about these 11 verses. Is this story of the woman taken in adultery a part of Scripture? I believe it is!

- In fact, the development of all of chapter 8 can easily be seen to grow out of this single event in the temple.
- In this entire chapter is a series of contrasts that reveal the graciousness of the Lord Jesus and the wickedness of sinful man.

A STORY OF OPPOSITES

The contrast between God's forgiveness through faith and grace in Christ and the bondage of legalism through demands of the Law

- These two opposites wonderfully coexist side by side in God's Word.
- The Law diagnoses the problem, but offers no cure.
- Grace is the answer to the problem presented by the Law. The Law is good, but it only shows us our faults; it offers no hope.

SMELLS LIKE A SETUP!

It's unlikely they caught a couple in the "very act."

- So we wonder if the man, who must have also been caught, was never indicted!
- The woman was known for her reputation; the accusation was true about her. Jesus forgave her of it, but how did the Pharisees know that info?
- Likely, it was a setup and/or an outright lie!
- Actually, the Law required that both guilty parties be stoned. **Lev. 20:10; Deut. 22:22**



LEGALISM IS ALWAYS PREJUDICED

The Jewish leaders, of course, were trying to pin Jesus on the horns of a dilemma.

- If He said, *“Yes, the woman must be stoned!”* then what would happen to His reputation as the *“friend of publicans and sinners”*?
- But, if He said, *“No, the woman should not be stoned!”* then He would be openly breaking the Law and subject to arrest.
- So He judged the judges . . . don't mess with God!

OH TO HAVE SEEN WHAT JESUS WROTE!

We do not know what He wrote, but it was convicting!

- Did He remind them that the Ten Commandments had originally been written “*by the finger of God*” (**Exodus 31:18**) and that He was God?
- Did He write down their individual sins?
- Did He remind them of their own adulterous affairs?
- It was required by Jewish law that the accusers cast the first stones. **Deut. 17:7**

THE POWER OF THE WORD TO CONVICT

Just as He had said before, forgiveness and repentance cannot be separated; *“Go and sin no more.”* **John 5:14**

- Don't misinterpret this event to mean that Jesus was *“easy on sin”* or that He contradicted the Law.
- Nobody was ever saved by keeping the Law, but nobody was ever saved by grace who was not first indicted by the Law.

Conviction comes before conversion.

FORGIVEN: THREE NEW REALITIES

- 1.** Her sins could be forgotten. He did not chide her; Jesus never even mentioned her unfortunate past.
- 2.** She need not fear the judgment day; the Lord did not condemn her. God does not exact punishment or payment for that which has been forgiven.
- 3.** She would face the future determined “*to sin no more.*” In this way, she could repay the Lord for His kindness and demonstrate her faith in Christ.

A NEW LIFE STORY

- 1.** Her Fall—My Fall—Your Fall
- 2.** Her Fear—My Fear—Your Fear
- 3.** Her Friend—My Friend—Your Friend
- 4.** Her Faith—My Faith—Your Faith
- 5.** Her Forgiveness—My Forgiveness—Your Forgiveness
- 6.** Her Future—My Future—Your Future

Moses spoke of **STONES** . . . Christ spoke of **MERCY**.

The Law keeps count of wrongs, but grace does not!