

Sin No More - cont.

Ultimately, we all live for either God or Satan (Matthew 6:24; Matthew 12:30). What will your choice be?

How do you approach sin?

Friend, do you approach sin with hypocrisy, like the Jews? Do you look to find sin in others, but not in yourself (Matthew 7:1-5)? You can learn from this story to look at yourself first, before looking at others.

Do you approach sin with humility, like the woman? Unlike her accusers, she was willing to look at her own life and admit her own fault (Luke 15:17-19). You can learn from this story to admit your own fault first, before exposing it in others.

Lastly, do you approach sin with humanity, like Jesus? He wanted others to be saved from their sin, not simply to be judged in their sin (Ezekiel 34:4,16; Matthew 18:15; Galatians 6:1-2; James 5:19-20; Jude 22-23). To reiterate what I wrote above, Jesus acknowledged her sin and so should we. But, he wanted her to be saved also, not just condemned. You can learn from this story to have a desire for sinners to be saved also, not just judged. - *Chris Reeves*

- Word of the Week -

“Grace” (Gr. *charis*) refers to a gift, a favor, a blessing, or a kind act. God showers his grace upon all mankind with physical blessings and spiritual blessings (Titus 2:13). In turn, we Christians who are blessed, should go and give grace (blessing) to others with our words and deeds (Ephesians 4:29). Let’s go out this week and “grace” others with our presence.

Warfield Blvd. church of Christ
290 Warfield Blvd.
Clarksville, TN 37043

Website
wbcoc.org

Radio Program
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Everyone Is Welcome!
For More Information Call
(931) 647-1324

Published and Edited By
Chris Reeves
(615) 389-3250
chrisreevesmail@gmail.com
TheGoodTeacher.com

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

And Jesus lifted up himself, and said unto her, Woman, where are they? did no man condemn thee? And she said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said, Neither do I condemn thee: go thy way; from henceforth sin no more.

- John 8:10-11 -

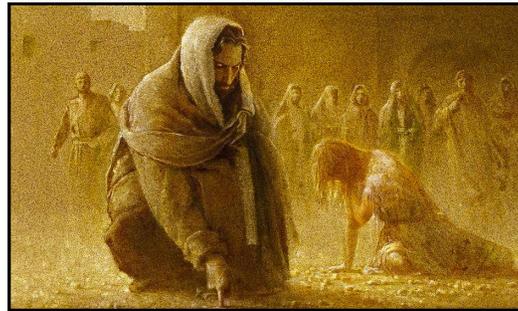
The Woman Caught in Adultery John 8:1-11

One day Jesus was teaching in the temple in Jerusalem and some Jews brought him a woman that they had caught in the very act of adultery. When they presented the woman to Jesus, they wanted to know if he was willing to uphold the Old Testament law of Moses and have her stoned.

John tells us that they did this to test or prove Jesus in order to have something to accuse him. They were likely trying to see if Jesus would side with Roman law (which allowed only Romans the right to carry out capital punishment at this time) or Jewish law.

Let's consider what we can learn about these Jews from this story. First, they were not interested in upholding the Law (v. 5; Leviticus 20:10; Deuteronomy 22:22). They knew, under Roman law, that they could not carry out

this death penalty as prescribed by Moses. Second, they were seeking an occasion to test Jesus, not uphold the law (v. 6; Matthew 6:1; 19:3; 22:18,35). Third, they acted hypocritically (v. 7; Matthew 23:13ff). They wanted to point out the sin in another person without dealing with their own sin.



Now, let's consider what we can learn about Jesus from this story. First, Jesus was interested in upholding the Law (Matthew 5:17; Deuteronomy 17:7). But, he was also interested in saving her life (John 3:17). He came to save people!!

No, Jesus did not remove the death penalty and Jesus did not overlook her sin. This story is sometimes used by people today to teach that he did, but this is a misuse of this story. What Jesus did not do is "condemn" her to be sentenced to death (Mark 14:64). Jesus was not her civil judge (Luke 12:14) and Jesus had no authority (under Roman law) to carry out the death sentence (John 18:31). Jesus

knew the adulterous man was absent, as the law of Moses prescribed (Deuteronomy 22:22). Jesus also knew he was not a witness to the act (as the law of Moses prescribed) and they were malicious (Deuteronomy 17:7; 19:16-19,21). Lastly, Jesus did in fact acknowledge her sin (v. 11)!

Go and Sin No More

Let's turn our attention now to Jesus' final words in verse 11: "Go thy way and henceforth, sin no more". First, Jesus commands us to choose NOT to sin. We can actually choose not to sin. Mankind is not born in sin, mankind "chooses" to sin (James 1:13-15). Here is where we must learn to put sin to death in our lives (Colossians 3:5-9) and we must put on the "new man" (Colossians 3:10).

Second, Jesus said go and sin no more. A person can actually go, repent, and stop sinning (the nature and effect of repentance). Here is where we learn that godly sorrow produces genuine repentance (2 Corinthians 7:9-10). Repentance is a change of mind which causes us to live differently ("go and sin no more;" see also John 5:14). Jesus is saying, in effect, go and start living for God. *- continued*