

Caught In Sin

John 7:53-8:11

Didascalla Apostolorum (250 AD), Dydimus the Blind (380), Jerome (415) liked story but said was missing from gospels, Augustine said it was not listed due to marriage, divorce, and remarriage issues, 430.

Introduction: Notice: 1. The terrible consequences and shame of sin. 2. The “nastiness” of religious people sometimes (out of wedlock babies, homosexuality, politics) 3. Jesus often does the unexpected. There are at least three lessons we learn from this passage.

I. Be careful how you judge other people

1. The Scribes and Pharisees failed their own standard
 - a. They saw themselves as enforcers of the Law.
 - b. Yet no one could live up to the Old Law
Romans 2:1-6 You are just as guilty
2. We must be careful in the way we judge others
 - a. But we must remember that none of us are worthy
 - b. We should judge actions and not people
Don't let sin define the person

II. Nothing surpasses the value of a soul

1. The Pharisees were using this woman to trap Jesus
 - a. They thought they had the perfect trap
 - b. She likely had been set up to fail
2. We must realize the worth of a person
 - a. Jesus spoke to sinners and even Samaritans
 - b. What is more important than a soul?
Mark 8:36 Gain world, lose soul
Luke 15: seek 1 sheep, clean house, receive son back

III. The attitude of Jesus toward sin.

1. Some say Jesus was “soft” on sin: his sin was too much grace
 - a. He could have thrown the first stone
 - b. But Jesus gave her opportunity once again
Jesus loves you as his child, Rom. 5:8, Titus 2:11
2. But a Day of Judgment is coming
 - a. All of us will stand before the throne
 - b. What will our answer be for our actions?

Conclusion: We do not know what ever became of this woman. Did she turn to Christ and live faithfully?

Today we stand in the crowd, deserving punishment, but Jesus has offered salvation. Have you taken this opportunity?

This Gospel passage clearly teaches Christian forgiveness is not synonymous with mere tolerance, but implies something more demanding. It does not mean overlooking evil, or even worse, denying it.

God does not forgive evil but the individual, and he teaches us to distinguish the evil act, which as such must be condemned, from the person who has committed it, to whom he offers the possibility of changing.

While man tends to identify the sinner with his sin, closing every escape, the heavenly Father instead has sent his Son into the world to offer everyone a way to salvation.