



Message Study Guide

Introduction

Without question, one of the single greatest examples of God's grace being bestowed upon an individual in Scripture is the account recorded in John 8 of the woman who was caught in the very act of adultery. While Jesus was teaching in the courts of the Temple hall one morning, the Scribes and Pharisees interrupted the teaching session by dragging in a woman whom they declared had been caught in the very act of adultery. This of course was done publicly and before a large crowd to embarrass the woman and to trap Jesus. It was in essence a public trial of Jesus to see what His response would be.

Because Jesus Christ is God, He of course had the perfect response - one that they certainly were not expecting. He said to the witnesses, "he that is without sin, let him cast the first stone". With this one simple statement, Jesus has suddenly put them on trial before the crowd. Who would be so brave as to declare before the crowd that they were sinless and would be glad to cast the first stone? To drive the point home further, Jesus began to write on the ground a message that was so demanding and convicting, that everyone left the Temple leaving only Jesus and the woman.

Grace was now ready to be lavished upon this woman. She never asked Jesus for help; she never admitted her own sin; she never thanked Jesus for what He had done; she never acknowledged Him as Lord. Grace was summed up in John 8:10-11: "Neither do I condemn thee... Woman... go and sin no more". Grace and right living was now replacing her old lifestyle. Only God's amazing grace could have made such a change to this unlikely and undeserving candidate of grace.

Discussion Points

Sometimes we as Christians have a tendency to see our sins as "lesser" sins when we compare them to other people. But the Bible makes it clear that although the expressions of sin vary from person to person, we are all equally wretched in need of grace (Hebrews 12:1; Roman 3:10-12).

Discussion Questions

1. On the surface, it may appear that Jesus was excusing or simply overlooking this woman's sin of adultery. How do we know that is not true?
2. Leviticus 20:10 requires that both parties involved in the sin of adultery be put to death. Why do you think the man involved in the adultery in John 8 was not brought before Jesus? Where was he?
3. What do you think Jesus wrote on the ground that day that was so disturbing to the witnesses and the crowd that day?
4. Why do you think Jesus chose to ignore the accusers and chose rather to respond by writing on the ground? What did that accomplish?

Think About It

The Scribes and the Pharisees actually did Jesus a favor that day that they were certainly unaware of. They brought this woman personally to Jesus and they exposed her sin. Those are the two basic things needed in salvation. That is truly amazing.

Do Something About It!

We must never rule out the possibility of God's grace being bestowed upon anyone, no matter what they have done. We need to view all people in the light of undeserving people who need God's grace.

Be Willing To Change

"For by grace are you saved, through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast (Ephesians 2:8-9).