

Sunday, 14 October 2007

John 8 : 3-11

John 8:3-11 The teachers of the Law and the Pharisees brought in a woman who had been caught committing adultery, and they made her stand before them all. "Teacher," they said to Jesus, "this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. In our Law Moses commanded that such a woman must be stoned to death. Now, what do you say?" They said this to trap Jesus, so that they could accuse him. But he bent over and wrote on the ground with his finger. As they stood there asking him questions, he straightened up and said to them, "Whichever one of you has committed no sin may throw the first stone at her." Then he bent over again and wrote on the ground. When they heard this, they all left, one by one, the older ones first. Jesus was left alone, with the woman still standing there. He straightened up and said to her, "Where are they? Is there no one left to condemn you?" "No one, sir," she answered. "Well, then," Jesus said, "I do not condemn you either. Go, but do not sin again."

Jesus brings you forgiveness.

Oh, we as mankind so love to judge, and find fault in everything others are doing. We are quick to judge, and slow to forgive. What is even worse is that we truly believe our actions can be justified. It's so easy to see the error in another's ways, and tell the world about it. Have you heard what this or that person has done? I was so shock to hear about what this or that person had done. But here we read that Jesus looked at the group of people crowding around Him, bringing this lady to Him, asking what He thought should be done to her. Their intention to trap Him, should He dare make a judgement. But in a very subtle way, Jesus answered them. The answer being simple: With the same harshness you judge, you will be judged. A reminder that by the same law they are now judging, there is even worse punishment for other sins that they may be guilty of. If they then insist that she should be punished by stoning her, what punishment should be coming their way? It was suggested that when Jesus wrote in the dirt with His finger, he might have been writing some sins down, sins that some of the people standing around might have recognized, knowing that Jesus knew what they were busy with.

Is this not true? Are we then without any sin, and thus, able to judge others, knowing that we are completely deserving of salvation, for we are perfect? The truth is more likely that we are so guilty ourselves, and thus, we see the sin in others and are able to identify them from by familiarity.

Yes, we are all in debt and all in need of daily grace from God. No, there is no big sin, and smaller sins. If you have murdered and killed, or have stolen 50 cents from someone, you have sinned. All sin is deserving of death. It's only Jesus that could save you. But, we need to be careful; as we might be judged in the same manner we judge others. How horrific will it be if one day we stand before God, and hear Him say, "In the same manner you have forgiven others that have wronged you, you are now judged, therefore there is no forgiveness for you."

Jesus looked up to the woman, not judging her, or condemning her. He looked at her, and gave her a second chance. For it matters not what our sin's of the past have been, the only thing that matters is now, and your future. You need to choose to live. You need to break with the past, and live as a free person, for you have a second chance. No, we cannot undo the past, but, because Jesus lives, we can face tomorrow, and He is giving as all another chance. What will you do with this new chance?

* Should you wish to write me, and are in need of someone who would listen and pray with you... Please do. david@davidniebuhr.com

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