

## The Relentless Mercy of Jesus

John 8:1-11 <sup>1</sup> but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. <sup>2</sup> Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. <sup>3</sup> The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst <sup>4</sup> they said to him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. <sup>5</sup> Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?” <sup>6</sup> This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. <sup>7</sup> And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.” <sup>8</sup> And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. <sup>9</sup> But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. <sup>10</sup> Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” <sup>11</sup> She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.”]]

### ❖ Introduction

- Good Morning... etc...
- Deal with something a little different today...

### ❖ Recap

- John 7
  - **Non-Belief and Legalism**
    - Loving and Hateful unbelief are the same
    - You will know the truth of your will is to do and know God’s will
  - **If You are Thirsty Come and drink**
    - Many Began to Believe on Him
    - Come to Me
    - The Soul of Man is thirsty
    - Universally Free Offer
    - Free Offer Exclusively through Jesus
    - Jesus Will quench Your thirst

### ❖ What We Skipped

- Vs 40-52
- People Were divided about Jesus
  - Trying to figure Him out
  - Leaders still wanted to arrest Him
  - Officers wouldn’t lay a hand on Him
  - Because “No one ever spoke like this man”
  - Nicodemus: Said they should not judge Him until hearing Him and learning what He does

### ❖ The Validity of this Text

- Thousands of Manuscripts.
- How the scholars decide what went in there...
- Early and Older Manuscripts
- Argument made that this should not be at this spot in John
  - Some would say anywhere in John
- Many agree that this is oddly placed... esp since it was not in the earliest manuscripts
- So... Is it Reliable... Did it happen... Should we include it
  - Many would say that although it looks to have been placed in John later, after John had written the book
  - That it most assuredly happened...
  - It was a true story of a true event that happened in the ministry of Jesus...

- The Way I see it...
  - God has supernaturally given us this book...
  - If He did not want it in there, He would have made sure it was not in there...
  - But since it is in the Bible... He wants it there...
  - If He can inspire the original Biblical Authors...
  - He can supernaturally protect His book from error...
- Also...
  - This story is completely Reflective of the Character of Jesus...
  - God's attribute of Mercy is clear throughout the Bible...
  - So, this is the way we will approach this text this morning...
  - By looking at it as it sits in the gospel,
  - And then looking through the rest of Scriptures to the nature of God and His mercy
- ❖ The Greatest Attribute of God for Us...
  - Mercy
  - Rejoice in that this morning...!!!
- ❖ Jesus And the Woman Caught in Adultery
  - <sup>2</sup> Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them.
  - <sup>3</sup> The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst
    - Just the woman
  - <sup>4</sup> they said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. <sup>5</sup> Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" <sup>6</sup> This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him.
    - Trying to trick Jesus
    - The Law was clear about adultery...
    - Stoning was in order...
  - Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground.
    - Seems to be ignoring them...
    - What did He write
      - Who knows
      - Apparently the act of writing in the ground is significant enough for John to add
  - <sup>7</sup> And as they continued to ask him,
    - They were persistent
  - he stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her."
  - <sup>8</sup> And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground.
  - <sup>9</sup> But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him.
  - <sup>10</sup> Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"
  - <sup>11</sup> She said, "No one, Lord."
  - And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."]]
- ❖ A Look at God's Attribute of Mercy Throughout the Bible
  - We will Come back to this at the end...
- ❖ God's Declaration of Himself on Mt. Sinai
  - Exodus 34:6-7 <sup>6</sup> The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, <sup>7</sup> keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty,

visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

#### ❖ **God's merciful Dealing with the Young Israelite Nation**

- The Golden Calf...
- Attributed God's Miraculous Deliverance to a golden calf
- Many died... But God did not destroy the entire nation....

#### ❖ **God's Mercy on Israel through the example of Hosea**

- Hosea marries gomer... an adulterous woman...
  - She goes back after marrying him...
  - And He buys her back....
- **God likens this to His relationship to Israel...**
- Hosea 3:1 <sup>1</sup> And the LORD said to me, "Go again, love a woman who is loved by another man and is an adulteress, even as the LORD loves the children of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love cakes of raisins."
- **Not to say that Israel did not suffer discipline....**
- **But God is so slow to anger and gracious**

#### ❖ **God's Mercy on King David as he despised the Word of God**

- What David Did
- What Nathan told Him (the Story)
- David's Response
- God's Response
  - 2 Samuel 12:7-14 <sup>7</sup> Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul. <sup>8</sup> And I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your arms and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah. And if this were too little, I would add to you as much more. <sup>9</sup> Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. <sup>10</sup> Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.' " <sup>11</sup> Thus says the LORD, 'Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house. And I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. <sup>12</sup> For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun.' " <sup>13</sup> David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die. <sup>14</sup> Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the LORD, the child who is born to you shall die."
  - There were earthly consequences for David's Sin...
    - As there will be so often for us...
    - But look at the Mercy of God...
  - God's Mercy
    - <sup>13</sup> David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die."

#### ❖ **No Condemnation for the Woman in adultery**

- **Jesus Responds to Her With Mercy**
  - he stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her."
  - <sup>8</sup> And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground.
  - <sup>9</sup> But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him.

- <sup>10</sup> Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”
- <sup>11</sup> She said, “No one, Lord.”
- And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.”]]

- **Men have no right to ever condemn...**

- **Only Jesus Does... but He does not here...**

- Romans 8:1 <sup>1</sup> There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
- Romans 8:3-4 <sup>3</sup> For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.
- Romans 8:31-39 <sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did **not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all**, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who shall **bring any charge against God’s elect?** It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. <sup>35</sup> **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?** Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” <sup>37</sup> **No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.** <sup>38</sup> For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- ❖ **The Cross made it so Jesus does not have to condemn!**

- What He did on the cross and how it affect us...

- ❖ **God’s Freedom to Give Mercy to Whom He Wills**

- Romans 9:18 <sup>18</sup> So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.

- ❖ **Go and Sin No More...**

- **Do not take His Mercy for Granted....**

- ❖ **Invitation**

- 2 Peter 3:9 <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.