

## **Getting a Second Chance: (John 8:1-11)**

Have you ever wished to have one more chance? Maybe some things were said that cannot be unsaid. Some things were done and cannot be undone. We cry out, "please give me another chance" not only with people, but also with God is heartbroken every time we sin.

Today I want to talk about women from Jn 8 who desperately needed another chance. Let's begin by looking at the background of the chapter.

### **Background:**

After spending the night on the Mount of Olives, Jesus shows up in the temple courts. Many people gathered around as Jesus started teaching them about God. Suddenly, Jesus is interrupted by the Pharisees and with them is a woman who has committed adultery. She was made to stand in front of the crowd as one of the Pharisees said, "Teacher", This woman is a sinner! She was caught in the act of committing adultery! Moses commanded us to stone such women! "What do you say we should do?"

Jesus straightens up and says, ""If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." Then those who heard the words of Jesus 'began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there."

Like the sinful women before them, they recalled moments where they had done things that were bad. There are a couple of lessons I would like for us to learn from this story.

### **God Gives us a second chance:**

The Bible is filled with wonderful stories of people who messed up but received a second chance from God.

I think about David in 2 Samuel 12. After realizing the gravity of what he had done, David said, "I have sinned against the Lord." Instead of striking David down, God put away his sin and gave him another chance.

I think about Jonah, who tried to run away from God but was swallowed by a big fish. Jonah got another chance.

Then there's Simon Peter who denied Jesus 3 times when the rooster crowed. After the resurrection, what did Jesus do? He gave Peter another chance and in Acts 2, Peter preaches the first gospel sermon. In verse 23, Peter says, "You crucified the Son of God", but God gives you another chance. "3,000 repented of their sins and were baptized.

Everyone needs another chance in order to be right with God. Some sins are secret and hidden. Other sins can become public where everyone knows. In Jn 8 Jesus uncovers secret and hidden sin. He said, "he who is without sin, let him cast the first stone"

The woman was just guilty as the Pharisees, but with one major difference. The sins of the Pharisees hidden. That option was not available to the woman. After her accusers snuck off and disappeared, she had the same 2 options the crowd had. She could run away and hide or face this mysterious, all-knowing person about her guilt. Unlike the Pharisees, and the crowd, she chose to stay. Jesus did not in any way condone or lessen what she had done. He did not say that what she did was OK.

Jesus simply told her, "The witnesses are gone. The case against you is over. "Go and sin no more."

**We to are to give others a 2<sup>nd</sup> chance, a 3<sup>rd</sup> chance, 4<sup>th</sup> chance.**

In Matt 18:21, Peter asked Jesus, "how many times should I forgive my brother? 7 times. He thought that was extra generous. Jesus said, "how about 70 x 7."

If we want God to be gracious to us, then we need to be gracious to others. Col 3:13 says "Forgive, as the Lord forgave you."

Jesus offered this woman another chance to become the woman of faith that God wants her to be. If you step back and look at it, everyone the story walks away with another chance. The Pharisees walked away with a chance to think twice about how they should respond to Jesus. The people in the crowd walked away with a chance to think about their own need for grace and forgiveness. Last, the woman walked away with a chance to leave her life of sin. A chance to made whole by the grace of God.

There is also another way to look at this story.

Let's make sure that we don't have the same critical spirit of the Pharisees. There are times when sin needs to be rebuked and we are going to do it with love and gentleness.

Can you think of someone who has you all riled up where you want to throw the book at them and we don't approach people the way we should? We don't forgive like we should. God's message for us today is "I'm giving you another chance so to let go of the bitterness inside your heart.

**Close:**

Aren't you glad that we serve a God who gives 2<sup>nd</sup> chances? Who gives 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> chances?

Psalm 145:8, "The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy."