

Session 2 Scripture/Questions / Both Sessions



New Testament *Unnamed Woman Forgiven by Jesus*

Scripture: John 8:1-11

8 1 while Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. 2 Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and began to teach them. 3 The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and, making her stand before all of them, 4 they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. 5 Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" 6 They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. 7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." 8 And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. 9 When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. 10 Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" 11 She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."

John 8:1-11 Questions for Discussion

1. According to ancient Jewish law, adultery was considered a serious sin forbidden by the commandments. It was considered a sin against God, self, and the community. In addition, since the sin is not committed alone, both parties were considered equally responsible and both were to be brought before the authorities. Yet, the scribes and pharisees only publicly accuse the woman. Why do you think this might be the case?
2. The woman is not addressed until near the very end of her story, after the scribes and Pharisees have fled. Jesus then asks her a question. Why is Jesus's ability to offer mercy, compassion, and forgiveness toward the woman important?
3. What does this woman's story teach us about being sinners ourselves? Why is it important that we acknowledge sin in ourselves before we can offer compassion, mercy, and forgiveness to others?
4. Just for fun, how do you imagine the woman felt when she left Jesus? What do you think she did next?