

Ridin' High Cowboy Church

8771 FM 35
Union Valley, TX

Pastor: Steve Bishop

May 3, 2015 ~ Leave Your Life of Sin

Background of the story: Jesus is at the temple in Jerusalem, the most Holy Place on earth to Jewish people. They thought God lived here in a place called the Holy of Holies. The Ark of the Covenant was there and the Ten Commandments were in the Ark. Surrounding all this was a large porch where non Jewish people could go called the Court of the Gentiles. To get here, there was a steep staircase leading to the altar where they would sacrifice all the animals to pay for sins. Everybody had to climb these stairs to get to where Jesus was and most of them came to sacrifice animals as well as to hear Jesus.

John 8:2-11

²At dawn (the sun is barely up, if at all) **he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them.** **³The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group.**

Most likely they caught the woman that night and kept her all night long waiting to use her to try and trap Jesus. They wanted this to be a very public event.

⁴and said to Jesus “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. This is not just a sin but one of the BIG sins, one of the TOP 10, *Exodus 20:14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.* This is one of the 10 Commandments everyone knows.

Now the crowd was getting larger because everyone saw the woman dragged through town and into the temple area by the leaders with the fancy robes. The temple is the last place this woman wants to be right now

⁵In the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” In other words, Do you follow the teachings of Moses or do you think you are above Moses? If Jesus goes against Moses and the Law most likely all the people would quit following him. Jesus was on the spot.

Just think how quiet it must have been just then!

Moses command really said, “If a man commits adultery both the man and the woman are to be put to death.” Lev.20:10 They could have walked 50 yards

and if they had to, pulled out the Ten Commandments and shown Jesus the original version of this law.

6 *They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.* Jesus had a history of showing mercy to sinners who knew what they were. And it made the religious people angry. **But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger.** What was Jesus writing on the ground? Ancient Jewish historians believed that God wrote the Ten Commandments He gave to Moses with His finger, and now Jesus, God in the flesh, was writing on the ground. Maybe he was writing the things he taught like, Love your neighbor as yourself, forgive every time, pray for your enemies.

7 *When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”* Remember where they were, they could hear the people standing in line holding lambs that were seconds away from being sacrificed for sins, they could smell the blood on the ground, they remembered the hundreds of times they themselves had climbed those stairs.

There was one person there who had no sin. And he was the only one who had no stone.

8 *Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.* **9** *At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first,* (the ones who had made the most trips here for their sins) **until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there.**

The woman was sitting with the Lamb of God in the temple where Lambs cover your sins for you, but she did not know.

10 *Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”*

The question did not mean had no one accused you, she had already been accused. It did not mean are you guilty? She was caught in the act.

The question meant, is there no one here to make you pay for the sin you committed?

11 *“No one, sir.” She said. “Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”*

Romans 8:1 **Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.** No condemnation for those who keep the rules, those who try hard to do right, those who are doing their best. When you become a

Christian, you are uncondemnable – nothing can come between you and God, not even your sin. Condemnation and consequences are two different things. Are there consequences for sin? YES! Is there condemnation for Christians? NO!

Jesus told this woman that she is free to go, but from now on sin no more.

This is an invitation for to all of us.

Jesus knew what you and I know, every sin comes pre-packaged with a penalty.

Every time you sin, something dies. Sin kills things ...

Conscience – things that used to bother you, don't anymore...

Mind

Body

Self-respect

Relationships

Self-control

An entire culture

Reputation

Months later, Jesus would hang on a cross and die for that woman's adultery, and all her other sins, your sins and my sins.

Tradition says that this woman was Mary Magdalene (we don't know for sure), but if that is true, we know Mary stayed with Jesus while he hung on the cross and was one of the first to see Jesus resurrected.

When someone is willing to die for you, you don't have to wonder where you stand with that person.

What is your sin?

God took a big risk in offering you forgiveness ahead of time.

Leave your life of sin, not because God is going to get you, but because sin will kill you.

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