

# The Rock of Our Salvation!

John 8:1-11

## I. When You're Caught Red-Handed

A. When caught red-handed in any sin, there is only one hope.

1. Law? (No!)
2. Judgment? (No!)
3. Brokenness, pardon, and a new beginning with Jesus

B. Doesn't this story smell of hate?

1. Lovers are discreet and cautious--How could this woman have been caught in the act
2. What the woman did was shameful/ what the Pharisees did was despicable

**Essentially the Pharisees' trap is,-- Jesus, do you kill the woman or kill the Law?**

**Dehumanizing people:** When we treat people as things, we dehumanize them and destroy something precious inside them. The Scribes and Pharisees were not looking at this woman as a person, but as a thing-- an instrument to get at Jesus! They used her like a pawn in a chess game. To them, she had no name, no personality, no heart, no feelings, no soul. Only a pawn to be used to corner Jesus.

Whether you use people for your own pleasure or to prove your point, even a religious point, you are treating these people as things to be used instead of human beings to be loved.

3. Where was the man (v. 5)?

4. Women have been subject to a double standard

- a. The Law of Moses would have required that both parties be put to death (**Lev. 20:10**)
- b. **Barclay's** study of the Mishnah reveals that the punishment for adultery is strangulation. A man was to be placed in dung up to his knees and a soft towel set within a rough towel is to be placed around his neck. Then one man draws in one direction and another man draws in the opposite direction until the accused be dead. The Mishnah reiterates that death by stoning is the penalty for a woman who is betrothed and who commits adultery.
- c. **Moses wrote Deut. 22:22-24**

## C. Watch Jesus

1. The finger that engraved the commandments & Belshazzar's wall now scribbles in the courtyard

a.v. 7-- He without sin cast the first stone...

b. In the Law the witness was to be "without sin" in the matter at hand (**Exodus 23:1**)

c. Anyone who gave testimony or participated in stoning would become subject to being stoned

**Illustration** How many fairy tales, songs, books, and movies have the following story line? There is a beautiful girl who was born to be a princess. Her heart is pure. Her love is true. But, alas! She is in the clutches of some evil person or hateful curse. She is trapped and unattainable. Her only hope is that a strong and handsome prince will come to set her free. But he will have to be both physically powerful and spiritually pure to enter her world, defeat her captor, and win her hand.

Just as she is beginning to despair of her prince, he appears. With daring and skill, he lays siege to the tower and the sinister force holding her. Much blood is shed. The knight on his powerful steed is beaten back once and again. But he rises and fights. Eventually the sorcerer is defeated, the dragon is slain, or the villain is destroyed. The object of such heroism and valor is rescued. Her heart is

captured by him forever. And they ride off to his cottage in the woods - or castle on the hill - to live happily ever after.

- A. How crushing to receive the opposite message.
  - 1. No value, no desire, no one who will fight, not cherished, ugly, undesirable, & coarse
- B. This reality reeks of agony!
  - 1. Many are like this in our world
  - 2. Imagine- no hero, being no one's princess
- C. For the woman in John 8, (hopeless reality)
  - 1. No hero
  - 2. No Prince
  - 3. No living happily ever after
  - 4. She lives a story of failure, abuse, shame and... **grace!**

## II. Meeting Jesus

- A. A beautiful story about compassion & opportunity for a new beginning.
  - 1. I meet people like this woman
    - a. Hurt
    - b. Cynical
    - c. Stopped caring
    - d. Guilty of things
    - e. Deserve to die
    - f. Want to die
    - g. Tried to die
  - 2. I love what this story tells me to tell them!
    - a. Sin can still be forgiven
    - b. There are second chances
    - c. The real issue in their lives is not the past but the future
- B. Too good to be true?
  - 1. Some of the most feared people on the planet are "c"hristians
    - a. Youth ministry has taught me a lot in this regard
    - b. Religious people can throw stones of gossip, withdrawal and judgment
  - 2. Christians are supposed to take a strong stand against sin, right?
    - a. Not with stones or threats
    - b. Not with rules
    - c. It's about relationship
- C. Meeting Jesus makes all the difference
  - 1. He's kind & gentle
  - 2. He looks into your soul
  - 3. He sees your past and offers you a future
  - 4. It's not about doing it on your own?
  - 5. He offers forgiveness
  - 6. He offers grace
- D. Scribes & Pharisees offer to beat the woman!
  - 1. Jesus challenges us with His love
  - 2. Calls us to a different life
  - 3. A relationship!
- E. Imagine this woman walking with Jesus in a new life.
  - 1. It's not stones that help the sinner.
  - 2. It's only a relationship with a Savior.

## **Conclusion**

A. Look at the woman... her dashing, heroic prince did come!

- No fairy tale
- Prince of Light rescuing from the Prince of Darkness
- Not a rescue to romance, but a rescue from lostness to life.

B. Let the pile of rocks serve as a monument to grace over law (Rom 3), life/death  
v.v. 10,11

**Remember, it's not the rocks that help us sinners, it is only Jesus the Rock of my Salvation who can help!**

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