

JOHN 8:1-11

REVIEW...

- **JOHN 7:1-53 - JESUS ATTENDED THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES...**
 - Jesus could not go openly - the leaders still wanted to kill Him for healing the lame man
 - Instead He went in secret - but half way through the festival - He stood up and taught!
 - The crowd was surprised the leaders said nothing - perhaps Jesus was the Christ...
 - The religious leaders sent soldiers to arrest Jesus...
 - Jesus told the people - His time was short - Jesus was going back to heaven...
 - On the last day of the feast Jesus stood up - 'Any one who thirst come to Me!'
 - Speaking of the rock in the wilderness - Jesus gives us the water of life!
 - There was a mixed reaction to Jesus teaching...
 - There were some who believed / others had questions they wanted answered...
 - Some refused to listen / while the soldiers gave in to peer pressure from the leaders...
 - Only Nicodemus stood up for Jesus - it took a while but his faith had blossomed!

JUDGMENT AND GRACE... (3 THINGS)

- **THE JOHN 8:1-11 CONTROVERSY...**
 - This is a controversial section of book of John - and has been brought into question...
 - The problem is the earliest copies of the Book of John do not contain this story...
 - There are two theories as to what might have caused this:
 - 1st - The story was added some 300 years later to the Gospel account...
 - Meaning this is not a real story from the life of Jesus - it was made up...
 - The problem with this theory is it means the Word of God is un-trustworthy...
 - If one part of the Bible is not true - then you have to question all of it!
 - But God is more than able to preserve HIS WORD - and every part of it is TRUTH!
 - II Timothy 3:16 - "All Scripture is inspired by God - and teaches us what is true..."
 - 2nd - The story was taken out of some copies because of its content...
 - Meaning some early copyists took the story out because it seems to allow adultery...
 - This is more likely theory - the story was removed because it was not understood...
 - Far from condoning sin - it focuses on forgiveness / and turning from sin!
 - There are many churches today who 'leave out' portions of the Bible...
 - Only teaching passages that are comfortable - ignoring whole books of the Bible...
 - But the truth of God is found in the 'whole counsel of God' - not just part...
 - Acts 20:27 - "For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God."
- **1ST - THE WOMAN CAUGHT IN ADULTERY... vs. 1-5**
 - 1st - Jesus spent the night on the Mount of Olives... vs. 1-2
 - Perhaps at the home of Mary / Martha / and Lazarus - village of Bethany...
 - Then the next day He returned to the Temple and sat down to teach the people...
 - In Jesus day the teacher sat and the people stood - I kind of like that...

- It keeps the audience attentive - try falling asleep while standing up!
- It would appear this story takes place the very next day after the feast of Tabernacles...
 - They had tried to arrest Him - wanted to kill Him - and still Jesus came back!
 - I love the persistence of Jesus - nothing was going to keep Him quiet...
 - If you share Jesus with someone - and they do not receive the message that day...
 - Just come back the next day and tell them again - and again - and again!
- o 2nd - The Scribes and Pharisees brought in a woman caught in Adultery... vs. 3-5
 - The Law commands the woman be stoned to death - **Deuteronomy 21:21**...
 - The Law of Moses was very clear on the penalty for an adulterous relationship...
 - God does not take sin lightly - He gave serious consequences to teach us to be holy...
 - If the penalty for sin is severe enough – if it costs is high enough...
 - It will keep people from committing sin – the Law taught consequence...
 - But there was a problem - the woman was caught in the act - so where was the man...
 - **Deuteronomy 21:22** - “Committing adultery, both he and the woman must die...”
 - The Law stated that both the man and the woman were to be put to death...
 - It is possible the reason why the leaders knew where the woman was...
 - Is because the man she was having an affair with was one of them...
 - That may be the reason why only the woman - and not the man - was arrested!
- 2ND - HE WHO HAS NO SIN - CAST THE FIRST STONE... VS. 6-9
 - o 1st - ‘What do you say’ - the leaders asked to test Jesus... vs. 6
 - They hoped to catch him ‘breaking’ the Law of Moses - so they could condemn Him!
 - Interesting they knew Jesus would not condemn the woman to death...
 - We often think of God as angry - ready to beat us up for our sin...
 - That could not be father from the truth - He wants more than anything to forgive us...
 - Jesus was willing to die for us - so that we would not have to pay for our own sin!
 - o 2nd - Jesus did not answer them at first - but when they insisted - ‘he who has no sin...’
 - He then knelt down and began to write something on the sand...
 - Though we do not know what Jesus wrote - it is a good bet it was the people’s sins...
 - This is the only time in the Bible we read about Jesus writing anything...
 - And it appears what He ‘records’ are the sins of those who reject Him...
 - We will all one day stand before Jesus - to give an account - **Revelation 20:11-12**...
 - There will be two sets of books opened - ‘The books’ and the ‘Book of Life’...
 - If your name is not found written in the Book of Life – the Books are opened...
 - A written record of everything you did - every word you said - even every thought!
 - Then you are judged according to your works – written in The Books...
 - From the oldest to the youngest they all left...
 - The oldest went first - because they had lived longer and therefore had more sin!
 - But in the end no one was able to stay - because everyone had sinned!
 - **Romans 3:10** - “No one is righteous— not even one.”
 - o 3rd - Jesus point - be careful when you condemn others...
 - We are also sinners - and are no better than anyone else...

- **Luke 6:27** - “Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven.”
- It is easy to point a finger at the sins of others - but there are 4 more pointing back!
- There are many today who would tear others down – so they do not look as bad...
- Did you even notice how people love to gossip about those who are sinning
- As though somehow we are more righteous – because at least were ‘not as bad’
- Want to look tall – stand next to the short guy / white – next to the dark guy
- If you want to look ‘good’ point out all the sin of the ‘bad’ guy...
- But they could just as easily point the finger at us - we are all sinners!
- We might justify we are trying to ‘help them’ by pointing out their sin...
 - Let us first deal with our own hearts before we reach out to help others...
 - Get rid of your sin before we ‘try’ and help someone else for their struggle...
- Rather than judge - it is better to forgive - **Matthew 18:23-35**
 - There was a servant who owed the Master 8 billion pesos...
 - Which makes the next statement obvious – he was not able to pay...
 - But the master wiped away the debt - he was completely forgiven...
 - But the man went out and would not forgive a fellow servant who owed 100P...
 - If we focus on what others have done to us - then we want ‘justice’...
 - We want them to pay back every centavo they have cost us...
 - Our problem is we are looking in the wrong direction...
 - We are looking at what they have done to us - rather than what we have done...
- The Master found out – should you not have had mercy as I had mercy on you!
 - How could you not forgive so little seeing how much you have been forgiven...
 - When we consider all that Jesus has forgiven us - everything...
 - How could we not forgive our brother what little debt they may owe us...
 - When we really understand from our heart how much we are forgiven...
 - How can we not from the heart gladly forgive others!
- **3RD - JESUS LOOKED UP - AND ONLY THE WOMEN REMAINED... VS. 10-11**
 - o 1st - Jesus asked the woman - ‘where are those who accused you’...
 - There was no one left - with Jesus standing beside her - no one could condemn her!
 - God freely forgave us of all our sin - paid our penalty so we could have life...
 - We might get the idea we are ‘pushing our luck’ when we fall into sin...
 - As though we are guilty - God accusing us of our mistakes - condemning our sin...
 - Gave forgiveness to all sin - and He continues to forgive - ALL THINGS!
 - Men cannot make accusations against us - since it is God who justifies us...
 - People have a tendency to judge others - quick to notice other’s faults...
 - ‘You go to church - you believe in Jesus - and you do that...’
 - The world has the impression Christians are perfect - that only saints go to church...
 - The church is not for saints - it is a hospital for sinners...
 - You would not be surprised to see sick people in a hospital - nor sinners in a church!
 - Christians are not perfect - they are just forgiven - God justifies them...
 - And since God has forgiven us - who has the right to accuse us...
 - Even Satan cannot condemn us - Jesus is our ‘lawyer’ at God’s right hand defending us!

- Picture a courtroom - you are on trial for you sins - God is the judge...
- Satan is accusing you - **Revelation 12:10** - wants to see you condemned to hell...
- He has all the 'evidence' he needs - all your sins / your immoral thoughts...
- But Jesus - our defender - comes to our rescue - He points out one simple fact...
- All our sins were paid for in full on the cross - we are found not guilty!
- If satan could not condemn us - how much less men...
- If men do try and condemn us - they will find they are arguing against God...
- It does not matter if the world says we are guilty - God says we are innocent!
- We have total 'confidence' in our walk with Jesus - cause the judge of all men...
- Has found us not guilty - we are justified - forgiven of all our sin!
- The list of those who cannot condemn me - includes me...
 - One of the hardest 'men' to not listen to - is myself - I condemn myself...
 - Conviction is good - the work of God's Spirit telling us not to sin - but repent...
 - Condemnation is bad - focusing on our failures - dwelling on our mistakes...
 - Disappointed - frustrated - that we cannot keep ourselves from sin
 - When we are focused on our mistakes - we are not looking to Jesus...
 - We are condemning ourselves - even though God says we are NOT guilty...
 - **I John 3:20** - "For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart."
 - If we are caught up in self loathing / pity over our sins and poor choices...
 - We just need to get our eyes off ourselves - and put them back onto Jesus!
- o 2nd - Jesus told the woman - 'Go and sin no more'...
 - Jesus did not give her the Law/death - He gave her Grace/life...
 - But it was not a license for her to go back to her old ways - go back to sin...
 - It was an opportunity for her to start over - to start a new life!
 - Some might ask - since we have abundant grace - why not sin...
 - No matter how much we sin - no matter what sin - God forgives us...
 - So why not go ahead and sin a lot - we will still get to heaven - covered by grace...
 - We are not talking about making mistakes - occasional slip up...
 - As believers - we will make mistakes - but if we repent there is forgiveness...
 - But can we choose to live a lifestyle of sin contrary to the commands of God...
 - God forbid! How can we who are dead to sin - continue to live in sin - **Romans 6:1**...
 - Our lives after we believe in Jesus should also be different - changed...
 - If we are saved - our lives will be show the difference - **James 2:17-18**
 - It is easy to say we have 'faith' and 'believe' in Jesus - the proof is in our actions...
 - If we say we are Christians - but live like the world - then do we really have faith...
 - Like the picture of a mango tree - it can call itself a palm tree - proof is in the fruit...
 - We can call ourselves Christians - but are continually to living in sin - are we really!
 - Jesus did not forgive us so we could go on living in bondage to sin...
 - He set us free so that we could have a new life - living our lives for Him!