

A DEVOTIONAL SERIES ON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

INNOCENT OR GUILTY?

John 8:7 “(Jesus said) ‘Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.’”

The Pharisees thought they finally had an open and shut case of sin with which to charge Jesus. The woman they brought to Him had been caught in the act of committing adultery. What was Jesus going to say and do? Didn't He have to condemn her and follow the Old Testament teaching that she should be stoned to death?

The Pharisees were once again silenced by Jesus. The verses that follow indicate that they left without making further accusations against the woman. Finally, when they had all left only Jesus and the woman remained. Jesus said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” She said, “No one Lord,” And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin nor more.” (John 8:10-11)

“This proclamation belongs in the spiritual realm of Christ. . . There is no person on earth who does not sin and is not deserving of death, no one excepted, whether he be noble or learned, burgher or peasant, young or old—all are subject to sin and to the wrath of God, and deserve eternal death, hell, and everlasting fire. No one is righteous in the sight of God; but all are sold to sin, guilty of death, and eternally lost.” (Martin Luther)

How quick our sinful nature sees the sin in others. When you see someone sin, do you condemn, ridicule and judge them harshly? Jesus did not overlook the woman's sin. He acknowledged it. Then He ministered to Her that she would see her sin, repent of it and amend her life so that she would not repeat it.

As a Christian, when you see your brother or sister sin, it is of great importance that you help them see their disobedience of God's Law. It is equally important when you become aware that they recognize their sin, sorrow over it and desire God's forgiveness that you tell them the good news of the Gospel. The Gospel's

message to them is Jesus paid the price for their sin so there is no price left for them to pay. No sin is too great or so small that the blood of Jesus fails to release them from God's condemnation. Jesus' words to the woman are the words for you to say to those who repent, "Neither do I condemn you. . .go, from now on sin no more." (John 8:11)

Prayer: Jesus, You ministered those who were sinners with love, compassion and forgiveness. Your love for them was not cheap, but cost you Your life. Cause me to see my own sins, the terrible price you paid for them and the forgiveness that is mine because of the faith the Holy Spirit has given me in You. Amen.

Not what these hands have done Can save this guilty soul;
Not what this toiling flesh has borne Can make my spirit whole.

Not what I feel or do Can give me peace with God;
Not all my prayers and sighs and tears Can bear my awful load.

Thy work alone, O Christ, Can ease this weight of sin;
Thy blood alone, O Lamb of God, Can give me peace within.

Thy love to me, O God, Not mine, O Lord, to Thee,
Can rid me of this dark unrest And set my spirit free.

Thy grace alone, O God, To me can pardon Speak;
Thy pow'r alone, O Son of God, Can this sore bondage break.

I bless the Christ of God, I rest on love divine,
And with unfalt'ring lip and heart I call this Savior mine.
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