**THE WONDERFUL GRACE OF JESUS**

**John 7:53-8:11**

We sometimes classify sin into certain categories. Many quickly point the finger at others, but may not realize the horror of their own sin. But we all need the wonderful grace of God in Jesus.

**1.THE UGLY HORROR OF SIN – John 7:53 – 8:6a**

* Some early manuscripts of John do not have this section or at least not here in John. But there is good reason to accept it as a real authentic event in the life of our Lord Jesus including a lead into Jesus being the light of the World.
* Adultery is a terrible, disruptive, consequential sin because of betrayal, breaking a covenant, etc. Adultery demanded the death penalty in God’s Law for both the man and the woman - Leviticus 20:10; Deuteronomy 22:22. But where is the man? “*Adultery is a great sin. If I were to name any one sin that is doing damage in our society today, it might be adultery. This is why there are few higher callings for Christians today than our sexual purity.” - Richard Phillips, John*
* But the worst horror of sin is actually seen in the Pharisees and scribes! - verse 6a. Their selfish evil plot reveals their malignant self-righteousness, deceit, malice, hatred, jealousy, etc. These are sins of the “spirit”. These sins of the heart were always condemned by Jesus in the strongest possible terms – Matthew 23:13,33. The Scribes and Pharisees are using this woman in an evil conspiracy to attack or at least dishonor Jesus Christ. Their goal is to get Jesus. They are acting like their father the devil – John 8:44. They want to get Jesus to condemn himself in one of three ways: 1. Dishonor Him in the eyes of the people by ordering her execution in obedience to God’s Law 2. Publicly disobey God’s written Law 3. Get Jesus in trouble with Rome by sanctioning capital punishment outside of Roman authority – John 18:31.
* *“The problem presented to Christ by His enemies was no mere local one. So far as human reason can perceive it was the profoundest moral problem which ever could or can confront God Himself. That problem was how justice and mercy could be harmonized…How can mercy be exercised when the sword of justice bars her way? How can grace flow forth except by slighting holiness?” – A.W. Pink, John.*

**2.THE BEAUTY OF JESUS’ WISDOM – John 8:6b-7**

* Jesus stoops and writes on the ground. We do not know what He wrote. One of the best speculations is He wrote the sins of the witnesses who were standing there perhaps with stones in their hands. The witnesses of a transgression were to be the first to execute the sentence of death – Deuteronomy 17:6,7. But the ones judging are also guilty of sin, perhaps even adultery itself - Romans 2:1; Mathew 5:27,28.
* Those who put the woman to shame, and intended to put Jesus to shame, are the ones who leave in shame! Despite all their plans and plotting, they were overcome in a moment by the presence and wisdom of Jesus – Luke 20:26. But they apparently leave unrepentant and unforgiven.

**3.THE WONDER OF FORGIVING GRACE – MERCY AND JUSTICE KISS – John 8:8-11**

* Jesus does not condemn this shamed terrified woman. She addresses Jesus as “Lord.” Jesus had every right to condemn her, but extends her wonderful grace, mercy, and forgiveness. Jesus did not come to condemn – John 3:17. In the wonder of the gospel, when we believe in Jesus, we are free from condemnation – John 5:24; Romans 8:1. But how can God not condemn us? If God is just, how can He let us go free? Because Jesus will take our condemnation for us in our place on the cross. ‘In my place condemned He stood, sealed my pardon with His blood.” – Romans 3:24-26. Jesus will fulfill the Law’s demands for justice Himself at the cross. Jesus is not opposed to the Law, but He exhausts its penalty – Galatians 3:11-13. Jesus takes the death and wrath of God we deserve. Because Jesus will pay it all, He can graciously forgive and freely accept sinners. Mercy and truth meet at Jesus’ cross – Psalm 85:10.
* Our sin never takes Jesus by surprise. He knows all about it. But He can forgive it all through faith in Jesus because He paid it all once for all! *“if you have tasted the law and sin, and if you know the ache of sin, then look here, and see how sweet, in comparison, the grace of God is, the grace which is offered to us in the Gospel.” – Martin Luther, Sermons on John.*
* We are forgiven by God’s grace in order to live a new life. Forgiveness does not mean a license to sin – Romans 6:1,2. Jesus warned others not to continue in sin – John 5:14. Jesus tells this woman to leave her life of sin. *“Jesus’ verdict, ‘neither do I condemn’, however was not rendered as a simple acquittal or noncondemnation. The verdict was in fact a strict charge for her to live from this point on… very differently – to sin no more…The liberating work of Jesus did not mean the excusing of sin. Encountering Jesus always has demanded the transformation of life, the turning away from sin….Sin was not treated lightly by Jesus, but sinners were offered the opportunity to start life anew.” – Gerald Borchert, John.*

Concluding Applications:

* Do you truly know the grace of Jesus personally in forgiving your sin?
* How are you resting in the forgiveness of Jesus? Do you know the joy of no condemnation because of Jesus?
* Is God’s grace driving you to obey Him? Are you living a new life for God and His glory in response to His sheer grace and mercy?