

CAUGHT IN THE ACT

John 8:1-11

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Have you ever had an embarrassing moment you would like to forget? If we are honest, we have all had some embarrassing moments we'd like to forget before.
- B. The woman in our text had an embarrassing moment too, but her embarrassing moment was not something to be laughed at. It was a matter of life and death.
- C. While this section of scripture has been heavily scrutinized, many textual critics agree this encounter represents a factual and historical event during the life of Jesus.

YOUR SINS WILL BE DISCOVERED (vs. 1-4)

- A. This woman was taken and placed before a crowd of people who were gathered at the temple, having just been caught in the very act of adultery.
- B. This woman probably never stopped to think that her sin would become known. She was probably careful about her actions, like most people who are trying to live secret lives of sin.
- C. Our sins cannot be hidden no matter what we think (Num. 32:23). God sees all and God certainly knows all (Heb. 4:13; Eccl. 12:14).

WHEN IT COMES TO SIN, THERE IS ALWAYS A PRICE TO PAY (vs. 5-6a)

- A. The scribes and Pharisees believed they had Jesus caught in a no-win situation. In their mind, no matter what Jesus said, He would be wrong.
- B. According to Law of Moses, the woman's sin was punishable by death (Lev. 20:10; Deut. 22:22).
- C. There's a penalty for our sins (I Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:19-21). We will not inherit the kingdom of God.

DON'T HOLD OTHERS TO A DIFFERENT STANDARD (vs. 6b-9)

- A. Some use these verses to claim that no one who sins should correct others of their sins. In other words, unless you are perfect, you cannot call others out for their sins (Rom. 3:10, 23; 7:15; I Tim. 1:19-20).
- B. When Jesus said, "He who is without sin, cast the first stone," He wasn't talking about being perfect. Jesus was pointing out their own guilt and neglect of the Law of Moses.
- C. It's easy for us to point the finger at the sins of others. We must remember though, we have all committed our own sins against God (Jam. 2:10).

BAD DECISIONS CAN BE REDEEMED (vs. 10-11)

- A. Jesus did not condone the actions of the woman (Deut. 17:6-7). He simply told her to go and "SIN NO MORE."
- B. Jesus gave this woman what she did not deserve, a second chance at life and forgiveness (I Jn. 1:9; Micha 7:18).
- C. Just because we are forgiven doesn't mean there will not be any consequences or scars.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Many see this story as being about the woman, but it's more about Jesus and His grace.
- B. Some of you may need to hear this today. Jesus offers us a new lease on life (2 Cor. 5:17; Isa. 1:18).
- C. Will you allow Him to do that this morning by humbly coming to Him and confessing your sins?