

## **Woman in the Mirror**

### **Lesson #2: Who she isn't**

#### **I. Let me tell you a story...about the woman caught in adultery**

- A. Introduction: John 7:53-8:11
  - 1. This section may not have been part of the original text. This account is absent from most of the oldest copies of John's gospel (before the 6<sup>th</sup> Century). And no Greek author commented on these verses for over 100 years.
  - 2. However, on a number of manuscripts, there is a blank spot left on the appropriate page. It may have been omitted because some early Christians felt that this story displayed too lenient of an attitude towards sin.

#### **II. The story line...**

- A. Time line considerations

Feast of the Tabernacles has just ended (7:2). Everyone left their booths and tents and headed home. Jesus had nowhere to go (Matthew 8:20), so He went to the Mount of Olives. Early the next morning He appears in the outer court (Court of Women) in the Temple.
- B. "He sat down" (like a teacher) and began to teach. He had stood like a herald (7:37) the day before.
- C. "Teacher of the law and Pharisees" were likely in route to where the Sanhedrim met (early on it was the "Hall of Hewn Stones" in a building connected to the temple. Later it was moved to the Court of Gentiles.)
- D. Their purpose:
  - 1. Not to condemn the woman, they were trying to trap Jesus.
  - 2. The emphatic question: "You, there! What do you say?"
  - 3. The issue:

Jewish law condemned her and the man! See. Leviticus 20:10, Deuteronomy 22:22. Roman law did not allow a life to be taken without Roman authority. They were trying to trap Jesus.
- E. The crime: Adultery (Exodus 20:14, Deuteronomy 5:18)

"She was caught in the act" – GUILTY!
- F. Jesus' reaction

1. Stooped down and wrote in the dirt. They kept pestering him.
  2. He addresses the issue of stoning (Deuteronomy 17:5-7)
  3. He invites the "one without sin" to cast first
  4. Then he stooped down again and continued writing
  5. They scattered - oldest first
- G. Jesus asked the woman two questions. He addressed her with the same term He uses for His mother at Cana (John 2:4) and at the cross (John 20:13). It is a term of "infinite tenderness."
1. "Where are they?"
  2. "Has no one condemned you?"
- H. "Neither do I" / "Go and sin no more"

The remaining portion of her life was not to be defined by that sin!

### **III. "The Woman in the Mirror"**

- A. We too are overwhelmed
1. Overwhelmed by guilt – we have sinned!
  2. Overwhelmed by the opinion of others
  3. Overwhelmed by a lack of support
  4. Overwhelmed by the love of Christ
- Romans 8:1 and 31-32 We cannot even condemn ourselves!
- B. We (like the woman of John 8) are not defined by our sin.
- Forgiveness demands a clean break with sin.
- C. We are also not confined by our sin.
- Forgiveness demands energy to change and move on!
- Our posture: Go...and sin no more!