

7th Grade New Testament (Gospels)**Lesson Plan:** Jesus and the Adulterous Woman**Learning Goals:** Students should analyze the way Jesus was able to harmonize the themes of mercy and justice (confronting sin with grace and mercy).**Question:** Have you ever been caught in the act of doing something wrong or sinful? How did it feel? How did you respond?

Prayer.

Discuss question on board. (5 minutes)

Read John 7:53 - 8:11**Who?**

- Jesus
- Scribes and the Pharisees
- A woman caught in the act of adultery
 - How did they catch her?
 - Where is the man?
- The crowds that gather around Jesus

What?

- They are trying to trick Jesus and catch him (this is set-up)
 - If Jesus doesn't condemn her, he is going against the law of Moses
 - If Jesus does condemn her, he is going against the law of Rome and he is a liar (he is no friend of sinners)
- Jesus bends down writing in the sand (What was he writing? We don't know)

When?

- After the feast of booths

Where?

- Jesus was in the temple (Jerusalem)

Why?

- How we can harmonize mercy and justice
- See also James 2:8-13 (mercy triumphs over judgement)

Significant features:

- What was her sin?
 - Adultery: could be committed by those who were married and by those engaged to be married.
 - Had to have two parties (can't commit adultery by yourself - exception: Jesus did say however that if you look at someone lustfully, you have committed adultery in your heart)
- What was the required punishment?
 - Prescribed punishment was death for both the male and female (where is the male here?)
- Jesus does not minimize her sin or condone it. Nor did he come to criticize her and point the finger at her either. He came to save her.

- Jesus didn't get into a debate on Moses' law or set aside the Roman law - he demonstrated that all those in attendance were unfit to judge her.
- Jesus gave the woman something the law could not give. The law can point out your sin, but only Jesus can forgive you.
- We might think that it's kind to tell people that their sinful behavior is not a sin, but we don't do anyone favors by doing so.
 - Illustration: a teacher, who never tells students what they've gotten wrong on a test or homework because he doesn't want to hurt the students' feelings. While it may make the student feel better to have a test with no red marks on it, the answers are still wrong. In the end, that only hurts the student worse.
 - Illustration: the parent who never disciplines a child. The child may grow up to be a complete jerk who doesn't know how to live in the world because of their greed and self-centeredness (always being right in their own eyes).

“Jesus’ last words to the woman are extremely important. If she has been forgiven - if she has been rescued from imminent death - she must live by that forgiveness. Forgiveness is not the same as ‘tolerance.’ Being forgiven doesn’t mean that sin doesn’t matter. On the contrary: ‘forgiveness’ means that sin does matter - but God is choosing to set that aside.”

- Tom Wright, *John For Everyone: Chapters 1-13*, 113

“There is no pit so deep that God’s love is not deeper still.”

- Corrie ten Boom

Lesson Summary/Review:

Students should review and highlight the following vocabulary terms and concepts from this lesson in their notes:

- Adultery
- How does Jesus respond to the adulterous woman? What does he do? What does he not do?