



Accusation, Mercy, Forgiveness, and a New Beginning.

JOHN 8:2-11

Jesus was coming back from the Mount of Olives, where He had gone to pray. The day before, He had been teaching in the temple. The religious leaders had sent officers to arrest Him, but they failed. When the officers were asked why they had not arrested Him, they answered, “*No one has ever spoken the way this man does.*” (John 7:46) When Jesus returned to the temple, many people gathered around Him to listen as He taught. The scribes and Pharisees, who were looking for a way to trap Him, brought a woman who had been caught committing adultery. They said to Jesus: “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. What do you say?” But there was an important question: the woman was not committing this sin alone. Where was the man who was with her? Instead of answering right away, Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with His finger. The Pharisees kept asking Him for an answer. Finally, Jesus looked up and said to them: “Let the one among you who has never sinned be the first to throw a stone at her.” Then He bent down again and continued writing on the ground. One by one, the accusers began to leave, starting with the oldest and ending with the youngest. Therefore, only Jesus and the woman were left.

Jesus tells the woman something good.

Jesus looked at her and asked, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”

She said, “No one, sir.” Jesus replied, “Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin again.”

What does this Gospel teach us?

1. Jesus knew the Pharisees were trying to trap Him.
2. The woman was judged, but the man involved was not brought forward.
3. Jesus did not reject the Law of Moses.
4. Jesus did not say the woman’s actions were right. Instead, He told her to leave her sin and live differently.

The Message

All of us are sinners who need God’s grace and forgiveness.

How often do we judge others without first looking at our own lives?

How often do bias and unfair judgment affect the way we treat people in our families or communities?

And how many of us can truly say we have never broken God’s commandments?

The Invitation

This Gospel invites us to look at ourselves before judging others. It calls us to show mercy to people who have intentionally or unintentionally made wrong decisions. It also reminds us to reflect on our own lives because we are not perfect. When we receive God’s forgiveness, we should try to turn away from sin and live a new life.

Is that possible?

Yes. Because in Luke 1:37 we are told: “Nothing will be impossible with God.

“Is that possible? Yes. On our own, it may seem impossible, but Jesus reminds us in Matthew 19:26, ‘For mortals it

is impossible, but for God all things are possible.' Through God's grace, we can turn away from our sins and begin a new life. In Isaiah 1:18, God says, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool."

This is a powerful message for all of us, especially during this season of Lent. It is a message of forgiveness and new life. Even when our sins seem deep and permanent, through God's grace in Jesus Christ, they can be washed away. So, Jesus says to all of us today, just as He said to the woman:

"Go your way, and sin no more."

Amen.

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