

Calvary Chapel Viewpoint

H.I.S. Men

(Honor – Integrity – Service)

Study in John

Caught in the Act

John 8:1–30 (CSB)

¹ But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

² At dawn he went to the temple again, and all the people were coming to him. He sat down and began to teach them.

³ Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery, making her stand in the center.

⁴ “Teacher,” they said to him, “this woman was caught in the act of committing adultery.

⁵ In the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?”

⁶ They asked this to trap him, in order that they might have evidence to accuse him. Jesus stooped down and started writing on the ground with his finger.

⁷ When they persisted in questioning him, he stood up and said to them, “The one without sin among you should be the first to throw a stone at her.”

⁸ Then he stooped down again and continued writing on the ground.

⁹ When they heard this, they left one by one, starting with the older men. Only he was left, with the woman in the center.

¹⁰ When Jesus stood up, he said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”

¹¹ “No one, Lord,” she answered. “Neither do I condemn you,” said Jesus. “Go, and from now on do not sin anymore.”]

¹² Jesus spoke to them again: “I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life.”

¹³ So the Pharisees said to him, “You are testifying about yourself. Your testimony is not valid.”

¹⁴ “Even if I testify about myself,” Jesus replied, “My testimony is true, because I know where I came from and where I’m going. But you don’t know where I come from or where I’m going.

¹⁵ You judge by human standards. I judge no one.

¹⁶ And if I do judge, my judgment is true, because it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me.

¹⁷ Even in your law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is true.

¹⁸ I am the one who testifies about myself, and the Father who sent me testifies about me.”

¹⁹ Then they asked him, “Where is your Father?” “You know neither me nor my Father,” Jesus answered. “If you knew me, you would also know my Father.”

²⁰ He spoke these words by the treasury, while teaching in the temple. But no one seized him, because his hour had not yet come.

²¹ Then he said to them again, “I’m going away; you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I’m going, you cannot come.”

²² So the Jews said again, “He won’t kill himself, will he, since he says, ‘Where I’m going, you cannot come’?”

²³ “You are from below,” he told them, “I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.

²⁴ Therefore I told you that you will die in your sins. For if you do not believe that I am he, you will die in your sins.”

²⁵ “Who are you?” they questioned. “Exactly what I’ve been telling you from the very beginning,” Jesus told them.

²⁶ “I have many things to say and to judge about you, but the one who sent me is true, and what I have heard from him—these things I tell the world.”

²⁷ They did not know he was speaking to them about the Father.

²⁸ So Jesus said to them, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own. But just as the Father taught me, I say these things.

²⁹ The one who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, because I always do what pleases him.”

³⁰ As he was saying these things, many believed in him.

Verses 1-11

What is the motive of these men, the teachers of the law and Pharisees, who brought the adulteress to Jesus?

Are they interested in this woman, in her sin, or in her execution under the law?

In the minds of the Jews, Jesus is caught between the following options. They are thinking win/win situation for themselves.

- Option #1 - If Jesus says to execute her, how would the Jews win?
- Option #2 - If Jesus says to let her go, how do the Jews win?

What is not quite right about this incident?

What element is missing?

How does Jesus end up answering their question?

What did He write on the ground?

What is the point of writing on the ground?

How does Jesus deal with the woman?

Why do they shrink away?

How does this story end?

Application: How does this encounter with the adulteress apply to us? We mustn't excuse wrong behavior or be soft on sin. At the same time we need to extend grace to people. We're expected to judge the rightness or wrongness of their behavior on basis of what Scriptures tell us. But we're not to judge a person's heart, eternal destiny, relationship with God, or motives.

Verses 12-30

In verse 12 Jesus states, "I am the light of the world." This is the second "I am" statement in the Gospel of John.

The light metaphor is easy to trace back to ancient times in Israel's history. The Jews associate light with God's presence. He created light on the first day. He led the Israelites out of bondage by the light of the pillar of fire.

How is Jesus the light of the world?

Verse 13 Why is His testimony declared not valid by the Pharisees?

How does Jesus answer that accusation?

Verses 19-30 deal with the theme of fatherhood. How would you describe the relationship between Jesus and His Father?

Application: How does that apply to us? Jesus once again serves as a model for us. We should ask ourselves questions like: Is my life in lock-step with God? If not, what's getting in my way? Are my motives pure? Am I totally dependent on God?

When Jesus said He was going away, what was He speaking of?

Who are those who will die in their sins as stated in verses 21 and 24?

Application: Men are blind to the "light" of the gospel. Our task is to proclaim the truth and to pray that God will open blind eyes and hearts to see the truth and respond to it in faith. As we seek to share our faith with others, we will not argue them into the kingdom of God solely with our intellect. They too have a heart issue.

Verse 28 How will they know He is the Messiah?

Verse 29 Jesus always does the will of the Father because He knows the will of the Father.

Application: How can we know the will of the Father? The will of God is not a roadmap for the future. It lies in a relationship.

It is stamped all over Bible. God's commands are clear and are indicators of His desire for our lives.

- *“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).*
- *“Seek first the kingdom of God” (Matthew 6:33).*

How does the crowd react?