



Tricking Jesus: What About This Woman?
John 8:1-6;

May 7th, 2023

DAILY DEVOTION

Find a rhythm in God's word this week! Follow this 5 day plan on your own or with your group!

<https://my.bible.com/reading-plans/29941>

INSPIRATION

"Sometimes life gives you a second chance, or even two!
Not always, but sometimes.
It's what you do with those second chances that counts."
- Dave Wilson

ICE BREAKER

1. Tell us about a time in your life when you were given a second chance in some area.
2. People normally find it really hard to give second chances to others. What are some of the reasons for this.

DEEP DIVE

Read this out loud

An excerpt from the message this week:

The religious leaders were trying to come up with a question or situation that would trick Jesus to undermine his increasing influence over the people. "Love the law or can you love a sinner? It sure seems that Jesus loves sinners. All he ever does is hang out with sinners. He hangs out with prostitutes and tax collectors – they love him. Let's get him to choose between the law and a person – a sinner – a real bad sinner."



Read John 8:1-6 and then answer the following questions:

1 Jesus returned to the Mount of Olives, 2 but early the next morning he was back again at the Temple. A crowd soon gathered, and he sat down and taught them. 3 As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd. 4 "Teacher," they said to Jesus, "this woman was caught in the act of adultery. 5 The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?" 6 They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger.

3. If she was caught in the act of adultery, what are some of the reasons you believe they did not bring the man involved?

What does that say about the culture at this time?

4. What about our culture today? Do you think our society as a whole still views marital unfaithfulness as wrong, or not?

If so, do you think they tend to view both parties as equally responsible, or do they tend to blame one side and tend to excuse the other today? Explain your thinking.

5. When someone around us fails at work, in school or at home, why do you think most people's "go-to" reaction tends to be - criticize, belittle, scold and condemn?

Read this out loud

An excerpt from the message this week:

"She has been caught – it is a set up for her and for Jesus. "Jesus – this woman has been caught in the act of adultery – the Law of Moses commanded us to stone such a woman – what do you say?" They had rocks in their hands – they were ready to carry out the order. Say the word and we will make her pay for her sin.."

Read John 9:7-11 and then answer the following questions:

7 When they kept on question him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." 8 Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the oldest ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. 10 Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned



you?” 11 “No one sir,” she said. “Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”

6. While, it would be nice if second chances were easy, often they are not. This is the last we hear from this event in the Bible, but what can we surmise that this woman had ahead of her after this?

If you were talking with this woman after this (or a man or woman in a similar situation today), when the difficulty ahead of them really sinks in, of course they'll be tempted to just throw it all away and start over again elsewhere. How could you show them the benefits of rebuilding their relationship, when they're thinking the grass must greener on the other side of the fence.

7. Jesus finished by telling her to leave her life of sin. He did not excuse or condone infidelity. Our sermon spoke of grace and truth and mentioned how hard it is to keep both in balance.

In your case, if you lean to one side or the other, would you be more of a “truth” person who often lacks grace, or are you more a “grace” person who tends to sacrifice truth to avoid conflict?

Additional Study

If you have time during your Small Group or you want to study more about the message topic, read and consider the following passages:

- Genesis 33:1-11 (Esau gives his brother Jacob a second chance)
- Exodus 32 (Aaron creates a golden calf, but a second chance is given)
- John 21:15-22 (After denying Christ, Peter is given a second chance)

NEXT STEPS

8. Who is someone in your world who could use some grace, kindness and encouragement at this time in their life? What is something you could do?

PRAYER

9. After sharing prayer requests, pray for the person on your right. Pray for that person throughout the week.



SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

Establish a regular rhythm of serving together! Below are some service opportunities.

- BENSON - Local Mission Partner is ABIDE. Contact Campus Pastor for more information.
- MILLARD - Local Mission Partner is Heartland Hope. Contact Campus Pastor for more information.
- FREMONT - Local Mission Partner is LifeHouse. Contact Campus Pastor for more information.
- OMAHA - Local Mission Partner is Open Door Mission. Contact Lyndsey Deyoe for more information.
- Or get to know your community! Seek out service opportunities in your area.