



God Is In Control

Text: John 8:1-11

Peter Pereira

1. Read John 8:1-11.
 - a. When they brought the woman to Jesus, the religious leaders were trying to trap Him. What was the penalty for anyone caught in adultery?
 - b. Who established this law?
 - c. If Jesus let the woman go, of what would they accuse Him?
 - d. If He punished her, of what would they accuse Him?
 - e. In what way were the religious leaders themselves "breaking the law"?
 - f. Do you think the religious leaders care about the woman? Why or why not?
 - g. How do you think the woman felt when they made her stand before the crowd and publicly announced her sin?
 - h. In verse 6 we are told Jesus knelt and wrote on the ground. There is no way of knowing for sure, but what do you think Jesus was writing?
 - i. Why do you think the older ones were the first to leave?
 - j. What do you think the younger ones were thinking as the older ones began to leave?
 - k. What do you think they were thinking when they were the only ones left?
 - l. As the crowd began to leave, what do think the woman was feeling?
 - m. How does Jesus respond?
2. Jesus stands with her as her advocate.
 - a. What is the significance of Jesus advocating for the woman?
 - b. Why would Jesus advocate for a guilty woman?
 - c. What message did this send to the Pharisees?
3. Have you ever found yourself in the place of the guilty woman? Whenever you are feeling the weight of your sin, do you imagine that God is ready to cast stones or do you imagine God as your protector? What does this story teach us about where Jesus is when we feel burdened with guilt and shame?
4. Peter makes the point that God doesn't just stand with the lonely and outcasts, but that He desires for us to be healed and experience life to the fullest.
 - a. What hurts are you carrying that need healing?

- b. In what way do you feel lonely right now? Have you experienced hurt or rejection from a loved one recently?
- c. Do you feel trapped by a certain pattern of behavior, perhaps even believing a lie that you are the only one with that struggle? What is causing you to feel overly anxious or burdened?
- d. How does Jesus call the woman to respond to His grace and love?
- e. What would surrender in your situation look like?

Challenge: Is there someone in your life who you need to advocate for? Is there someone that you need to forgive and respond with grace and love?

Prayer: Pray together as a community that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the hurts and anxieties that were expressed will be healed so that everyone can experience the freedom and life that only God can offer.

STUDY DEEPER

Jesus Is Turning Your Shame into a Showcase of His Grace

You know that part of you that you really want others not to see – that stubborn weakness, humiliating failure, embarrassing illness, horrible past event, or present struggle with sin? There's very good news for you in the story of the woman with a hemorrhage in Luke 8.

Jesus was now a reluctant celebrity. And a crowd was teeming around him as he made his way toward Jairus's home to heal the synagogue ruler's twelve-year-old daughter.

In the crowd was a desperate woman. For twelve years she had suffered from a vaginal hemorrhage. All the medical treatments she sought had bled her savings. Nothing had helped.

But she had seen Jesus' healing power. When he touched people, they were healed. If he could just touch her...

However, she had a problem. Her problem was the problem. Everyone who came to Jesus for healing had to tell him – and thus everyone else – what his or her problem was. Jairus had just done that. But a vaginal discharge? In front of all those men? Even worse, her bleeding made her unclean, which added a deeper shame to her embarrassment.

But maybe Jesus didn't need to know that he touched her at all. What if she touched him? With that mass of people all trying to get close to him, she could just quickly touch his cloak. Nobody would ever know!

She pushed and jostled her way toward the Rabbi. The closer she got the greater the knot in her stomach. His disciples were trying to keep people from grabbing him. Her desperation fueled her determination. Suddenly there was an opening and she quickly bent down and swept her hand along the edge of Jesus's cloak.

As she straightened up and stepped back she felt a flash of heat through her abdomen. She knew instantly she was healed. A flash of shocked joy washed over her.

For about five seconds.

Then Jesus stopped and began searching the crowd. He looked concerned and said loudly, "Who was it that touched me?" (Luke 8:45)

A flash of fear washed over the woman. Those closest pulled back from Jesus. Everyone looked at everyone else. There were various declarations of "I didn't do anything!" But the woman froze.

Peter, with some irritation, said to Jesus, “Master, the crowds surround you and are pressing in on you!” For goodness’ sake, everybody’s trying to touch you!

But Jesus, still looking, said, “Someone touched me, for I perceive that power has gone out from me” (Luke 8:46).

The woman realized she had been caught. It had never occurred to her that she might be stealing this healing.

Meekly she said, “It was me.” She stepped back toward Jesus and the crowd parted. In tears, she dropped to her knees in front of him. “I touched you, Master.” And she poured out her shame in front of everyone.

Jesus was clearly moved. He leaned toward her and wiped her tears and said, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.”

When Jesus finally got to Jairus’s home and resurrected his daughter, he told her parents not to tell anyone (Luke 8:56). And yet this woman, who tried so hard to keep her healing a secret, was required to tell everyone. Why?

Because this woman believed in him.

What Jesus was exposing in that moment was not her weakness and shame. What he was exposing was her faith. He wanted her faith visible so that everyone who carries a secret shame – which is every one of us – might have hope.

Jesus, the Great Physician, has the power to heal us from every sin, every weakness, every failure, every illness and every evil ever committed against us. And he promises this healing to everyone who believes in him (John 3:16; Matthew 21:22).

Faith is what pleases God (Hebrews 11:6) and faith is what releases the grace of God in your life (Ephesians 2:8; Luke 8:48). Do you want deliverance from your shame? Come to Jesus believing. Come desperately determined to touch him. And if faith is weak, cry out, “I believe; help my unbelief!” (Mark 9:24) and “increase [my] faith!” (Luke 17:5).

No, not every promised grace will be received in this age (Hebrews 11:39). In fact, most are being saved for your best life that is coming (Hebrews 11:35).

But you, if you believe in him, will receive sufficient grace (2 Corinthians 12:9) to help you in your time of need (Hebrews 4:16).

So, trust him and take heart! That place of shame will not remain. Jesus is turning it into a showcase of his grace.

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/jesus-is-turning-your-shame-into-a-showcase-of-his-grace>