A SYMPATHETIC SAVIOUR

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**DATE: 8/19/2018 am**

**TEXT: John 8: 1-11**

**INTRODUCTION**

We are continuing our study in John’s Gospel

We are looking at how John portrays Jesus in different ways in each chapter

In Chapter 1 we saw Him painted as the Word

In Chapter 2 we saw Him painted as the Son of Man

In Chapter 3 we saw Him painted as the Divine Teacher

In Chapter 4 as the Great Soul Winner

In Chapter 5 as the Great Physician

In Chapter 6 as the Bread of Life

In Chapter 7 as the Fountain of Living Water

This morning, in Chapter 8, we will be looking at Him as -

**“THE SYMPATHETIC SAVIOUR”**

And we need just that!

We need a Saviour Who understands and cares

I praise the Lord this morning that we have a Saviour Who loves sinners and understands how we are

Now, please don’t misunderstand me

God never condones sin

He is Holy and He Hates sin with His entire being

However, He loves the Sinner (That’s hard to separate sometimes for us)

He knows what we’re made of and He knows what we are up against

**Psalm 103:14 – *“For He (God) knoweth our frame; He remembereth that we are dust”***

As Don Hardman would say, *“we are just animated dirtbags”* (I hope that doesn’t offend you?)

**Hebrews 4:15 – *“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin”***

**Psalm 8:4 – *“What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?”***

As we look at this portrait John paints of Jesus here in Chapter 8,

I want you to see that he paints a picture of a Sympathetic Saviour

He doesn't show us Someone who is soft on sin,

But Someone who loves sinners and reaches out to them in Grace, Forgiveness and Love

That’s the Saviour … we’ll see this morning

I want to look at the 3 Different People in our Text

**~~~Prayer~~~**

First, let’s look at …

**I. THIS “WICKED WOMAN” – v. 3 a**

***“And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto Him a woman”***

We have here the religious leaders bringing a woman to Jesus who was caught committing a sin

So, first, let’s look at …

**A. Her ‘Sin’**

According to our text, she was caught in Adultery

Adultery by definition *is the act of a married person being unfaithful to their spouse by engaging in an affair with someone else*

**Leviticus 18:20 –*“Moreover thou shalt not lie carnally with thy neighbour's wife, to defile thyself with her”***

The Command Against Adultery is found in …

**Exodus 20:14 – *“Thou shalt not commit adultery”***

There is definitely a prohibition in the Bible against this type of behavior

(You wouldn’t think so, the way it is blatantly carried out now-a-days)

According to the narrative, she was caught in the very act

**v. 4 – *“this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act”***

(Wow, I guess they were some very nosey people)

Whatever way you look at this, she was guilty of breaking the 7th Commandment

Now, adultery is a vile sin – Why?

- The emotional toll it brings, it’s horrendous

- It breaks up homes

- Destroys lives, both of the spouses and the children

- Can lead to some serious consequences – harm, death

**Proverbs 6:34 – *“For jealousy is the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance”***

- Physically it takes a toll on someone’s health

**Proverbs 5:11 – *“And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed”***

But at the same time, it is no worse than any other sin

**James 2:10 – *“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all”***

All sin is unbelievably devastating to everyone

***“The wages (results) of sin is death”***

In fact, even if we never ever committed a sin with our bodies or our minds, we would still be guilty! Why?

We are born into sin (We are sinner by nature)

**Romans 5:12 – *“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; …***

***… and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:”***

We are all as guilty as this woman,

Our problem is that we simply won't admit it

**Proverbs 28:13 – *“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper:”***

**Her ‘Sin’**

**B. Her ‘Shame’**

Could it have been that in their haste to bring this woman to Jesus …

That her accusers didn't give her sufficient time to cover herself

However it happened, she was certainly humiliated by the public accusation and disclosure of her sin

Sin is a Shameful thing!

No matter how skillfully it is hidden from the eyes of men,

God knows all about it and one day it will be revealed before all

**Luke 12:3 – *“Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops”***

Saddest of all, the truth about our profession will also be made public one day

**Matthew 7:21-23 – *“Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” “Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?” “And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity”*** (That should give us pause)

For some, that caused you a little consternation

Wouldn't it be far better to get everything right with the Lord and have nothing to fear

There will come a day of judgment and of full disclosure

We sin willfully, knowing that what we are doing isn’t right

Because we never expect to be caught

Our sin makes us stupid, reckless

And when we are caught, O the shame that’s involved

***“Be sure your sin will find you out”***

**Her ‘Shame’**

**C. Her ‘Sentence’**

**v. 5 –** They tell Jesus **- *“Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?”***

Her accusers were absolutely correct!

According to the Law, she deserved to die

**Leviticus 20:10 – *“And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death”***

**Deuteronomy 22:22 – *“If a man be found lying with a woman married to an husband, then they shall both of them die, both the man that lay with the woman, and the woman:”***

There was one thing missing

Where was her partner?

Both were supposed to die for this sin!

The man is conspicuously absent

That may have been part of this scheme

He may have been allowed to slip away

Whatever the case, this woman is guilty

But in their effort to discredit the Lord

They brought her to the best possible place

They brought her to the very person who could deal with her problem and the only one who could make it right

Nobody gets away with sin!

The penalty of it will always come due

There will come a payday someday!

If it is not dealt with now!

**THIS “WICKED WOMAN” Her Sin, Shame, Sentence**

Next, let’s look at …

**II. HER “SCHEMING CRITICS” – vs. 3 b -9 a**

These types of people always floor me

You know, the self-righteous type

You know the one’s that think they’ve cornered the market on being a good person

These religious men are just like legalists today

They couldn't have cared less about this woman, her sin, her soul, or her eternal destiny

All they cared about was pressing their agenda, and their brand of righteousness

Thing haven't changed!

All the Self-righteous are the same!

**A. Look at Their ‘Plan’**

These men hated Jesus, they were threatened by Him

They were jealous of Him

**Matthew 27:18 – *“For he (Pilate) knew that for envy they (Sanhedrin) had delivered Him”***

Therefore, they contrived this plan to get Him

These men were trying to put Jesus between a rock and a hard place

-- If Jesus simply let the woman go, then He would be seen as being easy on sin

And could have been arrested for being in violation of the Law

-- If, however, He gave permission for the woman to be killed,

He would have than come into conflict with Rome

-- It would have also destroyed His reputation as being the friend of publicans and sinners

They felt that no matter what Jesus did, He had no wiggle room

Their Thinking … *“We got Him now!”*

**That’s Their ‘Plan’**

**B. Here’s Their ‘Problem’**

Their Plan might have succeeded with an ordinary man

But they were not dealing with an ordinary man

Jesus simply avoids their trap!

When they tried to stump Him, they discover that they had met their match

Notice how He responded to their argument

**1.** He *Ignored* Them – **v. 6 b**

***“But Jesus stooped down, and with His finger wrote on the ground, as though He heard them not”***

Everybody wants to get into a big dissertation on what He wrote

Let tell you what I think He wrote - *“I Don’t Know”*

Maybe He wrote …

-- The Ten Commandments

After all, it was His finger that wrote them the first time!

-- Perhaps He wrote their names in fulfillment of

**Jeremiah 17:13 –** (Which Reads)

***O LORD, the hope of Israel, all that forsake Thee shall be ashamed, and they that depart from Me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the LORD,”***

-- Maybe He wrote out **Leviticus 20:10** and **Deut. 22:22**

-- Maybe He simply wrote their girlfriends names

Whatever the Lord wrote, it surely got their attention

By the way, He knows how to speak to our hearts as well!

First, He *Ignores* Them

**2.** Then He *Exposes* them – **7 b**

***“and (He) said unto them, he that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her”***

This was Perhaps the most painful realization of all

**v. 9 – *“And they which heard it, (were) convicted by their own conscience,”***

(Let's at least give them credit for the fact that they felt some conviction)

We need to understand that one of the hardest things we have to face is … who we really are!

However, until you see yourself as being sinful, you won’t do anything about it

They are brought under Conviction

When Jesus made this statement, He wasn't requiring that these judges be sinless

If that were the case, then no one would ever be able to render a judgment in any matter

I think what Jesus is saying to these hypocrites is …

*“He that is free from this particular sin, let him first cast a stone at her”*

You see, adultery can be committed with the Head and the Heart just as much as it can be committed with the body!

At this point, all the shouting comes to a stop

And all that could be heard was the dropping of the rocks and the shuffle of their sandals as they stole away quietly

**v. 9 - *“And they … went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: …”***

You see, these men were Exposed before their 1fellow man, this 2accused lady, and most importantly before 3the Lord

How much better it is to come to Jesus by faith and miss all that Exposure and Shame!

**THIS “WICKED WOMAN”**

**HER “SCHEMING CRITICS”**

Then lastly, let’s look at …

**III. THE “SYMPATHETIC SAVIOUR” – vs. 9 b -11**

Now we come to what this message is all about

I am so glad, each and every day, that I serve a Compassionate Saviour! (Aren’t you?)

Without His Grace we would never be able to make it

Only Jesus could have cleared the Temple the way He did

And when that last rock hit the Temple floor

Look at …

**A. How this Woman ‘Faced’ Jesus – vs. 9 b, 10 a**

***“and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst” “When Jesus had lifted up Himself, and saw none but the woman,”***

As He stood before her, He was the only One that day qualified to take up the first stone

When she faced Jesus, she was facing the ultimate Judge!

Yet, that’s not what happens (Is it?)

She had reached a place in her life where it was just her and Jesus

It always comes down to that!

Eventually, somewhere, someday, we are going to have to face Jesus

Oh, I am sure that He has given each of us a lot of opportunities to come to Him

(Especially if you have been coming to this church for any amount of time)

But the Question is - What have you done with them?

My friend, you will either receive Jesus at one of life's encounters, or you will face Him on Judgment Day

Which would you rather it be?

In the end, it always comes down to just you and Jesus

And, what you do with Him will determine how you spend eternity!

**How this Woman “Faced” Jesus**

Look at …

**B. How Jesus ‘Forgives’ this Woman – vs. 10 b, 11**

Jesus asked **– *“Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?”***

***“She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more”***

The only One qualified to throw a stone … doesn’t!

Jesus dealt with her on the basis of Compassion

The religious men had condemned and considered her as good as dead,

Jesus however, saw someone worthy of His love and worth saving

When she met Jesus, she received 2 great blessings that forever changed her life

These same 2 blessings are the gift of God to all who receive Jesus as their Saviour

**1.** A New Lord

Notice again how she answers Him

She calls Him ***“Lord”***

There is definitely a Respect here

By her simple confession of Christ as Lord, salvation became hers

That is all there is to being saved!

**Romans 10:9** says, **“*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God has raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved*!”**

It doesn't get any easier than that!

Even small children can comprehend that truth and make it real in their lives

What about you?

Have you taken this step of faith?

We not only need Him for Salvation, but for Sanctification as well

**2.** A New Life

***“And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more”***

All of her life, she had been subject to the god of this world

She had been a prisoner of her own lusts and desires,

**Ephesians 2:1-3 – *“And you hath He quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;” “Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:” “Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others”***

Jesus, however, has come and unlocked the shackles that held her bound in sin and He set her free!

Jesus specializes in taking wasted, ruined lives and saving them by His grace and restoring them to usefulness

Every person who comes to Jesus for salvation receives this new life

**II Corinthians 5:17 – *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new”***

We get a chance to begin again, and this time, we actually have a chance of making something out of our lives

**I Peter 1:23 – *“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever”***

**CONCLUSION**

Maybe, like this woman, your life has been wrecked and ruined

Maybe you have been hurt by religious people

Maybe you are looking for that One Who will make everything alright

I want to invite you to come to Jesus

He cares about you just like you are

He loves us and wants us to come to Him

He wants to deliver us from our bondage

He wants to set us free

Therefore, He invites you to come to Him today

If there are issues in your life that need to be settled, this would be a good time to bring it to the Lord

Will you bring your life to Jesus and let Him have it?