

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

How Do You Respond to God's Forgiveness?

John 8:1-11

1 When the Lord went to the cross, He made forgiveness possible for each of us. 2 Ephesians, Chapter 1, verse 7 says, In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace . . .

When you surrender your life to the Lord, this forgiveness applies to you! 3 Acts, Chapter 2: verse 38 reads, Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 4 Then, in Acts, Chapter 22, verse 16, it continues, And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.

Now that you are forgiven, how do you respond to this wonderful gift? 5 John, Chapter 8, verses 1 through 11, tell you. But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. The teachers of the law and the

Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.¹₆

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.” Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.²₇

At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” “No one, sir,”

¹ v1-6.

² v6-8.

she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."³

So, what are the three most important questions to be asked and answered here? The first is found in verse 5.⁸

I. The Most Important Question to be Asked by God: "What Do You Say Regarding Sin?"

- v5

In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" The most important question to be asked by God: "What do you say regarding sin?"⁹ Verse 4 tells us this woman was obviously guilty.⁴¹⁰ According to the Law, she was to be executed! Deuteronomy, chapter 22, verse 22, **If a man is found sleeping with another man's wife, both the man who slept with her and the woman must die. You must purge the evil from Israel.**

³ v9-11.

⁴ v4 - Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery.

It takes two to commit adultery. ¹¹ Where was the man? It appears they were more concerned about trapping Jesus than they were about finding truth! ¹² Verse 6 indicates that this test was would Jesus break a direct command of the written law of Moses? ⁵ ¹³

He had already defied some of their oral traditions. For instance, ¹⁴ He healed a man on the Sabbath Day. He practiced medicine! ¹⁵ He told a man to carry his bed on the Sabbath Day ⁶ ¹⁶ He and His disciples "harvested" corn on the Sabbath Day. ⁷

Jesus had, supposedly, also broken a written law because He talked as though He were God Himself! ¹⁷ John, Chapter 5, verse 18, **For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his**

⁵ v6 - They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

⁶ John 5:8-9 - Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. The day on which this took place was a Sabbath . . .

⁷ Matthew 12:1-2 - At that time Jesus went through the grain fields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick some heads of grain and eat them. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, "Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath."

own Father, making himself equal with God. ¹⁸ The law He supposedly broke was Leviticus, Chapter 24, verse 16, **Anyone who blasphemes the name of the LORD must be put to death.** ¹⁹ These Jews correctly understood what He was saying. He claimed to be equal to God because He was! ⁸ ²⁰

God sees sin differently than we do. ²¹ We tend to see sin as relatively unimportant. We compare our sinfulness with those around us who seem to be more sinful than we are. So, we tend to excuse ourselves for not being so bad. ²²

God sees sin as rebellion against Him and His standards for us. To Him, sin is black and white, not relative. He will have nothing to do with sin or the one who commits it! To Him, one transgression makes you a sinner. ²³ James, Chapter 2, verse 10 says, **For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just**

⁸ Philippians 2:5-6 - Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁸

one point is guilty of breaking all of it. ²⁴ All of us have sinned. ⁹ ²⁵ The consequence of sin is death! ¹⁰ Since we are all sinners justly condemned to eternal death, God's answer to this question becomes pretty important!

We find that answer in verse 7. ²⁶

II. The Most Important Answer to be Given by God: "The One Without Sin Must be the Executioner!" - v7

If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her. The most important answer to be given by God: "The one without sin must be the executioner!" ²⁷

Notice first verse 6, Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. What do you suppose the Lord wrote in the dirt? ²⁸ Maybe He

⁹ Romans 3:23 - . . . for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God . . .

¹⁰ Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death . . .

quoted Deuteronomy, Chapter 22, verse 22 ¹¹ , quoted earlier, about the death penalty being the consequence of adultery, underlining the part about the man! ²⁹

The word in the original language here for "write" ¹² is not the normal word for write. This word includes the idea of writing a record against! This word is used in the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament around 250 BC, in Job, Chapter 13, verse 26, **For you write down bitter things against me and make me inherit the sins of my youth.** ³⁰ So He may have written down the sin each accuser was guilty of.

This is my favorite guess; ³¹ He wrote out the name of the woman each of them had an affair with! Maybe each accuser had committed adultery sometime during his life but just never got caught. You could

¹¹ Deuteronomy 22:22 - If a man is found sleeping with another man's wife, both the man who slept with her and the woman must die. You must purge the evil from Israel.

¹² καταγράφω.

understand why each one would quickly drop their rock and get out of there fast! ³²

The point here is God wants you to focus on correcting your own sins, not pointing out the sins of others! Justice demands that only the innocent have the right to pass judgment on the guilty. ³³ Matthew, Chapter 7, verses 1 and 2, **Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.** ³⁴

In Matthew, Chapter 18, Lord Jesus tells the story of a financial manager who was held accountable for mismanaging over seven million dollars of the king's estate. The verdict was for the manager and his family to be sold into slavery to pay back at least a portion of the debt. The manager's reply was if the king were patient, he would be paid back everything the manager owed. You could imagine the king rolling his eyes, but he decided to forgive the whole debt!

By and by this manager found someone who owed him a little more than three months wages. Again the reply was to be patient and the full debt would be repaid. But, instead of showing any mercy, the manager threw his debtor into prison.

The king was furious when he discovered what had happened. The manager was, himself, thrown into prison as a result. The lesson here, God expects you to treat one another as mercifully as He treats you! ¹³ You need to straighten out your own life before becoming critical of others!

Verses 10 and 11 give us the application. ³⁵

¹³ Matthew 18:23-35.

III. The Most Important Response to be Made by You: "Sin No More!" - v11

Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she said. Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin." The most important response to be made by you: "Sin no more!" ³⁶

You need to notice what the Lord didn't say here. He didn't say, "Oh well, that's okay. Everyone is doing it anyway. We'll just let it go!" ³⁷ What He did say was "Leave your life of sin!" Literally He said, "Do not continue sinning!" ³⁸

These Jews treated this woman as a thing, a weapon to use against Jesus. Jesus treated her as a person needing forgiveness and a transformed life! ³⁹

God wants you to get away from your sin-oriented life. ⁴⁰ Let's review some basic Bible Sin Truths. There are only two kinds of people in the world, sinners on their

way to hell and sinners saved by grace! ⁴¹ Once you've committed sin there doesn't appear to be a way to live good enough to become a "non-sinner". ⁴² Good deeds don't erase bad deeds! Accumulating more good deeds than bad deeds in your life doesn't shift God's sin ledger into your favor. ⁴³

All you can do is trust your life to the Lord Jesus. Guess what; that's what He wants you to do! ⁴⁴ Because of the cross, Lord Jesus can make you righteous! ⁴⁵ Romans, Chapter 5, verse 19 says, **For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.** ⁴⁶

Your way of thanking God for His salvation is to forsake your sin-oriented life for His God directed life! ⁴⁷ Accept His forgiveness. Accept His authority over your life. Let God call the shots in it!

How do you respond to God's forgiveness? Your thanksgiving gift to Lord Jesus is to forsake the sin-oriented life and live for Him!

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