

Jesus, Perfect Truth and Perfect Grace

John 8:1 - 11

In this present evil world, it is extremely difficult to walk in a balance of truth and grace. Often, we are tempted to focus on truth with such tenacity that we can become unkind; at other times we may become so afraid to seem unkind that we do not speak the truth. Jesus is the only One that ever walked in perfect harmony 100% of the time in every situation He faced. In this passage of Scripture, we see a great example of our Lord's mercy and grace but also His great wisdom and holiness.

Question: Are we as Christians called to be all-inclusive and tolerant, or are we called to speak the truth in love? This seems to be the great debate in American Evangelicalism.

Context: I would submit that this narrative reveals to us the blackened, sinful heart of wickedness. The wickedness to which I refer is not the wickedness of the woman but the wickedness of the scribes and Pharisees.

- They cared little for the woman; she was simply a pawn.
- They cared little for the Word; it was simply a tool.
- They cared little about the holiness of God; it was simply a cover for their self-righteousness.

Here are a few key thoughts about both grace and truth: This passage is a commentary on, **John 1:17, "For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ."**

- **Grace is not based upon our innocence.** The issue in this story is not that an innocent woman was being falsely accused; she was guilty.

Note: Grace is based upon the nature and character of God!

- **Grace is not limited by the severity of our sin.** This woman's sin was the sin of adultery, and it carried with it the penalty of death. God's grace is sufficient for all sin!
- **Grace is the only thing standing between us and death.** The Bible makes it very clear that "the wages of sin is death." We are sinners and deserve to die!
- **Grace is Jesus' response to all who repent.** Only one person that day had the right to condemn this woman. Yet, Jesus said, "neither do I condemn thee." It reveals to us that Jesus' greatest desire is to offer us forgiveness and salvation.
- **Truth does not condone sin; it calls for change.** Jesus does not say, "Oh, well adultery is not that big a deal." Rather, He calls upon her to turn away from her sin! "Go and sin no more."
- **Truth does not discriminate between sin or sinners.** There is no double standard with the Lord! Here is where we must be careful. We are often most critical and condemning of sins that repulse us or confuse us, while being soft on sins that we struggle with.

Jesus deals with the sin of the woman, while also drawing attention to the sin of the religious leaders.

Application: You and I are present in this story today. We are often much like one of the three main characters in the story.

Sometimes, we are like the Pharisees, condemning and unforgiving toward others. Other times, we are like the woman, guilty and condemned by our own actions. But hopefully, we are often like our Savior, Who offered grace while speaking truth!