

The Balanced Life (4) The Application of Balance

John 8:1-11

Introduction: Today, we are finishing a series we have been calling "The Balanced Life" and we have been talking about the balance between grace and truth. One of the disciples of Jesus, named John, said about Jesus, "He...who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14) My desire for us as individual believers and us as a church to be so full of Jesus, that we be filled and balanced with grace and truth.

In our text today, we read a story about a woman who had been literally caught red-handed, committing a crime. This woman had literally been caught in the very act of adultery. Now regardless of where you are spiritually or morally, you should see yourself in this story. In fact, we are all in this story, and we can all learn a life-changing lesson from this story. We are going to learn today how we should see others the way God sees us, and we are going to see the application of grace and truth in perfectly balanced harmony.

I. With truth we see the reality of sin:

A. The time and place of this event

1. **Look where this story takes place.** (Jn 8:2)
2. **This event took place in a temple** (Jn 8:3-5)

B. Notice the target of this event – (*The adulterous woman, right?*) *Wrong!*

1. **The woman was just a pawn**, the real target was Jesus.
2. **They were not after her;** (in fact she was nothing to them as evidenced by the way they treated her).
3. **They were after Jesus** (Jn 8:6)

C. Notice the trap of this event –

1. **If Jesus forgave the woman**, He would be breaking God's Law.
2. **Then, if He condemned the woman**, He would be breaking governmental law.
3. **So, there were actually three things at stake here.**
 - a. **The Law of Moses is at stake**,
 - b. **The life of the woman**
 - c. **The love of Jesus** "*They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him...*" (John 8:6, NIV)

As they were building their case against Jesus; Jesus was building His case against them.

D. Notice the truth of this event - Jesus turns the tables as He was great at doing.

1. **Instead of passing judgment on the woman**, Jesus passes judgement on her accusers. (Jn.8:7-9)
2. **What a stunning turn of events** and what a powerful scene!
All of a sudden, truth has forced these self-righteous hypocritical, Pharisaical judges to see the reality not just of her sin, but of their own sin.

That's what truth does, *truth shows you the reality of sin and it reminds you of two things.* First, no one is without sin. *Not one single one of us!*

Second, except for the grace of God, *we can always be in the other person's place.*

II. With grace we can seek redemption of sin:

A. Jesus confronted the accusers - (John 8:7-9)

All that was left was Jesus and this adulterous woman. However, she is not out of the woods yet.

B. Jesus confronts the woman - The facts haven't changed. She is still guilty. She knows it and Jesus knows it. (yet,...)

C. Jesus does not condemn the woman – Now... (Jn 8:10-11)

D. Jesus calls her woman –It was the same word that Jesus used for His own mother.

The ones that were unqualified to condemn her couldn't. The One who was qualified to condemn her didn't. When she looked at the hands of Jesus, His hands were empty of rocks, *but one hand was full of truth and the other hand was full of grace.*

III. With grace and truth, we will show repentance from sin:

A. Notice, the last words of Jesus to this woman is this, (John 8:11)

Without that last statement, the story wouldn't just be incomplete; *it would be giving grace at the expense of truth.*

Jesus is not just winking at this sin, pretending that He doesn't see the sin, and sticking His head in the sand.

B. Notice, the living words Jesus speaks to this woman -

1. **When Jesus offers grace**, it is always with truth, "*Neither do I condemn you. Go now and leave your life of sin.*"
2. **The biblical word for doing that** is called "repentance."
3. **When you turn to God and receive His offer of grace** you have to turn away from sin as you receive the judgment of truth.

We are living in a culture today that tells us it is wrong to say something is wrong. I think that is wrong. *If we refuse to condemn what God condemns* that is neither loving nor graceful. *It is cowardly.*

God gave us a voice to speak grace and truth. And we can do this just as Jesus did – *full of grace and truth!* If we don't use our voice for both, we lose our voice for either.

Conclusion: Well, here we are again with another soul we don't know her name, but I'm glad we know her story, because no story gives the application of the balance of grace and truth and how Jesus was filled with both better than this story.

What we need to be, and will be, if we are full of Jesus, is someone and a church, who in a spirit of grace will always love people enough to tell them the truth! So, there is the application of the balanced life. *There is grace and there is truth.* There is redemption, but there is repentance. There is "I forgive your sin", but there is also, "*Now you go and forsake your sin.*"

"I'm so glad to see the reality of the grace and truth of Jesus in my life. I pray you are too.