

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #150

Stage VI. Jesus' Later Judean Ministry B. Jesus' Ministry at the Feast of Tabernacles 2. Jesus Forgives a Woman Caught in Adultery

ii. Jesus Forgives and Transforms a Woman John 8.9-11

9 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.

10 Jesus straightened up and asked her, *"Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"*

11 "No one, sir," she said.

"Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. *"I command you to go now and permanently leave your life of sin."*

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	The Temple Courts in Jerusalem
Timeline	September (Month 31)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VI: Jesus' Later Judean Ministry
	B. Jesus' Ministry at the Feast of Tabernacles
	2. Jesus' Forgives a Woman Caught in Adultery
Title	ii. Jesus Forgives and Transforms a Woman

COMMENT:

Today's brief reading makes the second major point of this incident. Jesus used his authority as the woman's Judge not to condemn her, but to compassionately forgive and transform her.

Jesus had the right to throw the first, and every subsequent stone at this woman for the sin of adultery. He had every right to pass judgment on her. Instead of doing that, he would soon die in her place to receive her death penalty, so she could be set free from all condemnation. Therefore he had the right to forgive her and cleanse her from all her sin, just as he had the authority to judge her.

As mean-spirited men picked up stones to kill her, we can be sure that this woman repented of the sin of adultery, and sought to make her peace with God. She was shocked to discover that he did it through his Son Jesus.

The accused woman could not take back what she had done, but Jesus could take it away forever! He can remove our sins through forgiveness and place us in the position of complete righteousness before God. That is what "no condemnation" means. This was the gift Jesus gave her. But it did not end there.

→ "There is therefore no condemnation..." Rom. 8.1

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Jesus also said "***I command you to stop sinning.***" He did not mean that she could never commit any sin, of any kind in the future. That would have been impossible. He DID mean that she needed to leave the particular sin of adultery behind her forever.

No doubt she had already made that decision. She had probably prayed: "God, be merciful to me, a horrible sinner. If I come out of this alive I promise that I will never commit adultery again. It was such a foolish thing to do. I am so sorry. Whether I live or die, please forgive me."

Jesus affirmed her repentant heart with his command, which was also a promise to her. The commitment she had made to leave her sin behind was not only possible for her, it was imperative to do so. It had to happen. Surely it did.

APPLICATION:

Jesus does not condemn us, either. He graciously forgives us because he paid the penalty for our sins in our place. He also commands us to move on. The last thing any of us need to do is stay mired in sinful patterns that we hate anyway. We need to move on. Jesus' command to stop our sinful habitual practices is the proof that we can do that.

What do you need forgiveness for, and then need to leave behind you forever? Do it today!