



SERIES: September 2022 – February 2023 Believe

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Wednesday, November 23, 2022

Scripture: John 8:7-11

TITLE: Freedom in Christ

Recently I had said some hurtful things. I needed to apologize to my family. When I apologized, my son said, “It’s okay.” I said, “It’s not okay. I sinned.” He said, “Okay, well, I forgive you.” Sin is never okay, and it’s never excused by God. It can be forgiven however. That forgiveness is our pass to great freedom in Christ. But what kind of freedom? Let’s continue our story of Jesus and the woman caught in adultery. John writes this in John 8:7-11.

And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.” And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.”

The Pharisees had a plan to trap Jesus. They caught a woman in the act of adultery. Both the man and this woman were guilty and deserving of death according to the law. But they really don’t care about the law. They care about trapping Jesus so they bring the woman to Him.

Jesus knows their hearts and their strategy. So he says in verse 7, “Yep. She sinned. So the one who is sinless, throw the first stone.”

Jesus was the only one who fit the bill but He did not pick up a stone. Instead, He condemns the people who were hoping to condemn the woman. They leave speechless. They left defeated but not broken. They did not see their need for forgiveness. They simply walk away challenged by Jesus.

The woman is left with Jesus. “He says, “Woman.” This is a respectful and compassionate title. He would call his mother “woman.” “Woman, where are your accusers? Was a stone thrown?”

She says, “They are gone. I’m unharmed.”

Jesus says, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.” Jesus is not saying “It’s okay, woman.” Sin is not okay. She was a sinner who needed a savior. She was already condemned in her sin. Jesus declared in John 3 that Jesus did not come to condemn the world. It already stood condemned.

If you're not convinced, look at Jesus next words. "Go and sin no more." You're a sinner. You've met great mercy from me. Sin is a problem. It's a soul killer. You're dead in your sin. Take this moment and receive this gift from me. Sin no more."

Jesus is offering her freedom. Jesus offers us freedom today. Forgiveness from God is a free gift. And it provides great freedom from sin, shame, and our selfishness. Some people will say that God's grace is cheap so live it up. "You're forgiven so seize the day." Jesus says, "You will have the full life with me. My salvation is free but it is meant to change you. It's freedom from sin and freedom with loving boundaries."

So my challenge for you today is enjoy freedom in Christ. There is great joy in living a life pleasing to God. It's a life free of regret and second guessing. A life of sin and compromise always disappoints. So, if you're a follower of Christ, enjoy that freedom with wisdom and commitment to Him.

If you're not a follower, consider Jesus' offer of salvation. He welcomes you into the family of God at no cost. Jesus says, "I do not condemn you. Come to me and sin no more."

With an offer like that, how could you ever resist?