

The Lord's Message: Jesus Stoops Low

Date: September 26, 2021

Where: Tilghman UMC

Scripture Reference: John 8:2-11

Let us pray.

In the passage of scripture that Larry just read there is an impromptu trial that involves a woman caught in the act of adultery. The interesting motive of this trial is not to seek justice, but to trap the one who will be judge of all people, Jesus the Christ. Look at verses 3-6a. There are several Bible verses, **Luke 6:8, Matthew 22:18, & Mark 2:8** that tells us that Jesus knows what we are thinking. Jesus is fully aware of their motive.

One would think that Jesus would take a commanding position. Most of the time a teacher would stand in front of their pupils or disciples, but the custom of Jesus' day was for the teacher to sit down and the pupils would sit down around them. Jesus is most likely in a sitting position when the men bring in this woman. So, one would expect Jesus to take the commanding position by standing. Look at verse 6b. Jesus is not standing, but stooping. Jesus is bent down and writing on the ground.

Jesus is stooped down past the men and their menacing stares at the woman. Jesus is stooped down past the woman's downcast and fear-stricken face. This is the King of kings, the Lord of lords, the Great I am, stooping down past all in the assembly.

The men are confident that they have Jesus where they want Him. They holler out to Jesus, "What do you say? Should we stone the woman or not?" In verse 8b, Jesus now takes the commanding position and stands. Jesus says, "Let the person who is without sin cast the first stone." Then Jesus stoops back down lower than the men and even lower than the woman and continues writing in the ground. We would look at this posture as Jesus being defeated. This is God's grace in action.

This is the same grace that would cause Jesus to face the penalty for our sins. Jesus would be stooped over and whipped forty times by the Roman guards. Jesus would be stooped over carrying that heavy cross up the hill to Golgotha. Jesus stooped down to be nailed to the cross and lifted up high for our sins. Jesus would die and be placed in a tomb. The stone rolled in front sealing the tomb. This what a criminal would go through. Not an innocent man. Not the Son of God. At the death of Jesus, Satan was doing his happy dance. Satan did not realize that this was God's greatest victory. None of us realized that this was God's grace in action.

We still today cannot comprehend that God's grace will go to any extreme necessary to show God's love. Do not take my word for it. The Apostle Paul tells us in **Romans 8:37-39**, God's grace will go to any depths or any heights to show you how much God loves you.

After hearing the words of Jesus, the men slowly dropped their stones and went away. Leaving only Jesus and the woman. Now, Jesus stands and tells the woman in verses 10-11 that He does not condemn her, to go and sin no more.

Now I find that Jesus telling the woman to go and sin no more is like telling a child not to eat ice cream. Unfortunately, it is our fallen nature to sin. Every one of us sins. We can be *healed* of our sins through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, but we can not be *cured* of our sins. The *healing* comes when we repent of our sins and ask forgiveness from Jesus. The *cure* comes when we get to Heaven with God and God changes us, so that we will not sin anymore. People can be *healed* of cancer, they can go into remission, but they can not be *cured* of cancer. Cancer may return during their lifetime. That is why they take tests. A person that is suffering from addiction can be *healed*, but they can not be *cured*. They can be sober for many years, but they can easily fall. We, or they, should not expect to be *cured*, but *healed*.

We all need *healing* and this can only come through the shed blood of Jesus. Jesus stoops low and is lifted on a cross high for us. Amen.