

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

Date: February 26, 2023

Title: Caught in the Act:

*The Church's Responsibility Toward Unsaved Sinners*

Text: John 7:53-8:11

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. Nothing is more humiliating than being caught in an act of disobedience! Whether it's a child with his hand in the cookie jar or an adult driving over the speed limit, we all know the sinking feeling of being caught.
2. If you are using any Bible translation other than the KJV or NKJV, you will notice immediately that there's some question about the authenticity of 7:53-8:11.

#### ANALYSIS:

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ (7:53-8:2)
  - A. The Feast of Tabernacles  
Fall of A.D. 29 (six months away from Jesus' crucifixion). **ALTERNATE:** "Passion Week" bet. His triumphal entry and crucifixion (Lk. 21:37-38).
  - B. The Temple courts at dawn  
The temple complex had 4 courts: 1) the court of Gentiles; 2) the court of women; 3) the court of men; and 4) inner court where temple building itself was located.
  - C. Jesus "sat down" (that's how the rabbis taught)
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ (8:3-6a)

"Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?"

  - A. The R. A. were not concerned for her \_\_\_\_\_.
  - B. The R. A. were not concerned for the \_\_\_\_\_.  
The Law req. the execution of both parties (Lev. 20:10; Deut. 22:22)
  - C. The R. A. wanted "a basis for accusing him" (vs. 6).
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ (8:6b-8)

- A. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ on the ground (vss. 6b, 8)  
There are many ideas about what Jesus wrote, but no one knows!
- B. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ to her accusers (vs. 7)  
"If anyone of you (the witnesses; accusers) is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone." See Deut. 17:7 and Matt. 7:1-5.

4. The \_\_\_\_\_ (8:9-11)

- A. There was no \_\_\_\_\_ condemnation (vss. 9, 10)
- B. There was no \_\_\_\_\_ condemnation (vs. 11)  
He neither condemned nor pardoned her; not His function at this time!

**APPLICATION:**

This incident raises the issue of the church's responsibility toward un-saved sinners in this world. How are we to treat them?

Every human being should be treated . . .

1. Treat them with \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus did!  
What about Paul's treatment of sinners in 1 Cor. 5? Double standard??
  - A. Man is made in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God (Gen. 1:26).  
No one to be murdered (Gen. 9:6); no one to be cursed (Jam. 3:9).
  - B. Man was created to \_\_\_\_\_ God's rule (co-regent).  
Scripture: Gen. 1:26-28 (Psa. 115:16); Psa. 8:3-8; Heb. 2:5-18.
2. Treat them with \_\_\_\_\_ (cp. Matt. 9:35-38).  
"Workers" are needed. Volunteer yourself; pray for more!
3. Treat them with \_\_\_\_\_ (see Hebrews 2:9-15).  
"But we see Jesus" (vs. 9) who is "bringing many sons to glory" (vs. 10).

Dr. John C. Whitcomb: The Early Earth (1972)

Man is the crown of God's creation. He was made in the image & likeness of his Creator and was given complete dominion over the earth (Gen. 1:26). "The highest heavens belong to the LORD, but the earth he has given to man" (Ps. 115:16). **Fallen man** has lost that original dominion, but still possesses God's image (Gen. 9:6; Jam. 3:9). *Redeemed through Christ, God's incarnate Son, **believing men** have already been moved positionally from the realm of "little lower than angels" (Heb. 2:7; Psa. 8:5) to a realm "far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, & every title that can be given" (Eph. 1:21; 2:6). **Glorified men** will even judge angels (1 Cor. 6:3, cp. Heb. 2:5).*"