

WOMAN CAUGHT IN ADULTERY

Scripture: John 8

Materials Needed:

Overwhelmed by Grace (Kent

McQuilkin): list of sins

Movie clip from Les Miserables

Objectives: As a result of this lesson, I want my students

To Know—When the Pharisees wanted to accuse Jesus of not being in line with keeping the law, they brought a woman who was caught in the act of adultery. But rather than accuse her, Jesus told those without sin to cast the first stone of judgment and all the accusers left, at which point Jesus told the woman he didn't accuse her and to stop sinning.

To Realize—those who judge by the law are judged by the law as sinners, and are in need of the freeing grace of Jesus to enable them to stop sinning.

To Respond by—realizing their sin and coming to Jesus for grace.

Setting up the Story:

Show clip from Les Miserables movie: chief of police is telling the mayor that he must be punished: committed the crime of defaming him and he must pay for it. The mayor gives him grace.

Story about the man who lives his life by the Law, and treats others by the Law as well, and the mayor who was shown grace by a priest and whose life is changed. A woman who has a child out of wedlock later becomes a prostitute in order to get enough money for her child to be cared for.

Similar to the characters in today's lesson:

Scripture

Telling the story:

- I. Background
 - A. At the Feast of Tabernacles
 1. Brothers told him to show himself with miracles.
 2. Jesus goes down secretly
 - B. Crowds Uncertain about Jesus
- II. Pharisees Want to Trap Jesus
 - A. As not being in line with the Law: saw themselves as righteous

As you tell the story:

John 7:1-13

Storytell background to put story in its context.

"There are three solutions to dealing with the demands of godliness. The first is to trim the demands to manageable proportions: God can't expect more than I can give, so I'll do what I can and His grace will cover the rest. This sounds

B. Bring a woman caught in the act of adultery

C. Remind him what the law says: "Moses said to stone such a woman."

good, but it is exactly the solution of the Pharisees. They had written down and numbered every law of the Old Testament and said, "Okay, here's the goal: 613 laws. We can do this." And they did. But Jesus' demand is not conformity to the law, it is conformity to God: be perfect. Anything less is sin." OBG, p. 13, 14

May I ask you something? Have you ever done something that if you had been caught while you were in the middle of doing it, you would have felt very ashamed? Then you know how this woman is feeling. She is GUILTY. She has no where to run and hide. She has been caught. And she knows what she deserves. And the Pharisees know what she deserves. "You must punish her. Moses demands it. Are you on the side of Moses or not?" The problem with the Pharisees is not their understanding of the Law: what is right and wrong. The problem is with their understanding

- III. Jesus Condemns the Pharisees
 - A. Writes in the Sand
 - B. Says, "Let him who is without sin cast the first stone."
 - C. Pharisees leave one by one

- IV. Jesus Pardons the Woman
 - A. Doesn't condemn her
 - B. Tells her to stop sinning

of themselves.

Concluding the Story:

How would you answer this question?

T/F Good people don't need Jesus.

Share testimony of my mom: "Good person" "just don't see my need for Jesus."
The statement above is true. Good people don't need Jesus. But the truth of our condition is: we aren't "Good people."

Read from Overwhelmed by Grace, p. 43:

"When the murderer, prostitute, demon possessed come for help, He shows compassion—the size of the sin is irrelevant. His indignation is reserved for the unrepentant, even if they are moral.

"Humanity is not divided into Big Sinners and Little Sinners. We are all Big Sinners. The earth is rather divided into Big Sinners who recognize it and Big Sinners who don't: ours is a world of prostitutes and Pharisees. Which are you?" (p. 50)

Close in Prayer.