

# Rejoicing to See God's Grace at Work in Others!

## John 8:1-11

### Introduction:

1. The text before us is all about the accusation, illicit sexual behavior, pride, prejudice, temptation, and extreme drama. All the things that movies and TV shows are about.
2. **Read John 8:1-11. Not surprisingly, the Pharisees (*religious people of that day*) are in the "accuse and condemn" mode.**
  - The Pharisees bring a woman to Christ who supposedly had committed adultery. They are not only eager to accuse and condemn her but are hopeful they can use the occasion to accuse and condemn Christ also.
  - During the time of Christ, the Pharisees were the religious Gestapo of Israel. Their life was consumed with accusing and condemning people.
3. **It is so easy for Christians to become this way. We can become very cynical – ever watchful to find a flaw in others, a crack in their armor, or some sin and inconsistency.** And then, we often become eager to pounce and condemn, acting as the judge, the jury, or acting and pretending like we have no issues of our own.
4. **We can become very intolerant and caustic towards each other, but also towards those that don't know Christ. Christians can get the attitude, "I hope they get what is coming to them."** They seem eager to have the lost judged

and condemned by God. That, of course, reflects the heart of a Pharisee. We too can have a pharisaical attitude toward others.

5. But **There is another way to live life. Instead of delighting in accusation and condemnation (*like Satan and the Pharisees*), we delight in mercy (*like God*). **Micah 7:18****

- **Micah 7:18 - Who is a God like unto Thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He retaineth not His anger forever, because He delighteth in mercy.**

- God doesn't just forgive reluctantly; He delights in showing His grace, mercy, and forgiveness to others.

6. To me, one of the greatest examples in the Bible of a man who walked like God in this way was Barnabas. Barnabas, a Jew in the church at Jerusalem, heard that a bunch of heathen Gentiles had trusted in Christ. But what was his attitude?

- **Acts 11:23 - When he arrived and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced and exhorted them all to remain with the Lord with a loyal heart.**

7. What did he see? He saw idol-worshipping, heathen, sinful, Gentiles whose lives had been changed by the grace of Almighty God. Barnabas was glad! Glad when he saw grace. However, that was not the attitude of all the believers in the church in Jerusalem.

- **Acts 11:1-3 – The apostles and the brothers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. 2 So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, those who were circumcised disputed with him, 3 saying, “You went in and ate with uncircumcised men!”**

8. **As believers, we should rejoice when we see the grace of God at work in the lives of others. Why?**

**First, because we have been shown grace.**

1. It is interesting – the Pharisees brought this woman to Jesus and acted as if it was because they were very zealous to keep Moses' law. **vs. 1-5**

- What did the law of Moses say about the issue?

**Leviticus 20:10; Deuteronomy 22:22**

- **What is missing here in this story from **John 8**? The guilty man!**

- Could it be that it was a setup? Could it be that they let the man go because he might have had some dirty laundry on them? We don't know the whole story, but Jesus did! I am not sure what He wrote on the ground, but I have a feeling He was letting them know that He knew the whole story. **vs. 6**

2. Because of the situation and the actions surrounding it, Jesus sought to bring their hypocrisy to the surface. **vs. 7-9**

- They were all guilty of breaking Moses' law, and they knew it. Not one of them was innocent. After they heard Christ's reasoning, they all hung their heads and left.
3. Have you noticed, that we love grace when it comes to our sins; but when it comes to others' sins, we want judgment and condemnation? This, of course, is sheer hypocrisy.
  4. We can't accept mercy and forgiveness for our sins and then desire condemnation for other people's sins. **If you want grace, you must allow it for all.** If we don't, our attitude and actions become very inconsistent and hypocritical.
  5. **If anybody should understand grace and rejoice in grace being given to others, it is a Christian. Ephesians 4:32**
    - **Ephesians 4:32 - And be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ also forgave you.**