

## **YOU THROW FIRST**

### **John 8:1-11**

**Introduction:** It is no problem for us to quickly and in ignorance judge one another, for we do it every day. We take no time to think whether we have been as wrong or guilty at one time or other as those we are judging. Jesus had something to say about us judging one another and it is found in our text. A group of "legal experts" who thought they had the right to condemn others brought a woman caught in adultery to Jesus reminding Him of the law that said such a person must be stoned to death. They asked Jesus His opinion in hopes of trapping Him in violating the Jewish Law and insisted on an answer. What they got, they deserved!

### **I. ONLY ONE WHO IS PERFECT HAS THE RIGHT TO JUDGE ANYONE ELSE**

1. *Matthew 7:1; 3-5.*
2. The most common fault among us and others is that we demand standards and actions from others which we have never fulfilled or even tried to fulfill ourselves.
  - So many condemn faults in others which are glaringly obvious in their own lives.
  - People punish and correct their children for saying or doing something they learned from their own parents who were punishing them for doing the same things.
  - Often Church members criticize other Church members for faults of which they, themselves are equally as guilty.
3. The qualification for judging others is not knowledge! It is goodness and perfection! Which nobody on earth possesses.

### **II. JESUS' REACTION TO THIS SINFUL WOMAN WAS - PITY**

1. Ever notice how a doctor does not turn away from a patient who has a disgusting appearance or a horrible disease? They don't shun them, they try to help them.
2. When confronted with someone doing something disgusting or their appearance is sickening, our response must not be to avoid that person at all costs. It should be that of finding a way to be of use of help to that person.
3. We must treat those who are offensive to us with the compassion and pity we would want if it were us who were in that condition.

### **III. JESUS DID NOT CONDEMN NOR PASS JUDGMENT ON THE WOMAN**

1. Jesus said, in effect, "I know you've made a mess of things; but life isn't finished for you yet. I'm giving you another chance, now stop doing this kind of thing..." Jesus gave her a second chance.
2. Only with Jesus does it seem there is always a second chance for seldom do we give one another such a second chance.
  - Jesus is keenly interested not only in one's past, but also one's future.

3. Jesus' love and concern showed through.
  - He didn't say that her guilt didn't matter for broken laws, broken hearts always matter.
  - He didn't question her being guilty or not.
  - However, Jesus didn't pass her guilt off as nothing, but He had pity and gave her a second chance, so unlike us and everyone else.
4. The difference between Jesus and us as well as the Scribes and Pharisees is that we want to condemn but Jesus wants to forgive.
  - We know the thrill of condemning but Jesus knows the thrill of forgiving.
  - We are disgusted with "sinners" for we consider ourselves "righteous." Jesus regards sinners with pity because He cares, He loves.
5. Jesus didn't say, "Forget it, don't worry, just watch it!" Jesus said, "It's all wrong, go out and fight, change your life, go and don't sin anymore."
  - Jesus challenged her to live a changed life, a sinless life.
6. Forgiveness isn't easy. Jesus points sinners to heights of goodness they never dreamed of reaching.
  - Jesus confronts the bad life with the challenge of a good life.
7. Jesus believes in people! Never did Jesus shame and run off or turn away from anyone in sin. Jesus always said, "***Go and sin no more...***"
8. Jesus never blasted people with the fact that they were miserable sinners. Jesus always tried to inspire them to discover that they were welcome in God's eyes.

## CONCLUSION:

1. Jesus is the Christian's example in every aspect of life. "What would Jesus do?" is a saying that has become popular, but add to that "What DID Jesus do?" and go and do likewise.
2. Jesus always tries to help the sinner turn away from his/her sinful way of life and the Christian is to do the same thing.
3. Sins are to be confronted, yes, but the sinner is also to be encouraged to turn away from such things and turn to Jesus.
4. We have no right, whatsoever, to judge or pass condemnation on anybody! For, there but for the grace of God, go us....and just maybe, we are doing the very same thing or have done it.