

## MERCY TRIUMPHS

May 4, 2014 John 8:2-11 by Bob Branch

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**MAIN IDEA:** Jesus handles sinners with astounding, even miraculous mercy and truth and invites us to do the same.

<sup>2</sup> At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. <sup>3</sup> The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group <sup>4</sup> and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. <sup>5</sup> In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” <sup>6</sup> They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. **John 8:2-6**

1. **God takes SIN SERIOUSLY...** (Lev. 20:10; Dt. 22:22)

**There is a HIGH PRICE TAG for sin: Death.** (Rom. 6:23; Ezek. 18:20; Gal. 6:7-9; Rom. 1:24; Num. 22-24; 31:16)

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. <sup>7</sup> When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” <sup>8</sup> Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. **John 8:7-8**

**Jesus SLOWS THINGS DOWN.** (James 1:19)

2. **When someone else sins, our response to it shows WHAT IS INSIDE US, not them.**

**Examine YOUR OWN HEART before making a judgment call on others.** (2 Cor. 13:5)

“A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.” **Luke 6:45**

**Q: Do I want God to deal with me the way I am dealing with them?**

<sup>9</sup> At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there.

3. **With our sins, eventually it is YOU and JESUS alone.** You must deal with Him as a person. Not a truth, concept, or moral. Jesus himself. ***This is where change happens!***

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.” **Revelation 3:20**

<sup>10</sup> Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” <sup>11</sup> “No one, sir,” she said. “Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”

4. **With a complete right to condemn, HE DOES NOT.**

“For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.” **James 2:13** ESV

**He also calls her to REPENTANCE... to change the direction she's going and go His way.**

“God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?” **Romans 2:4**

“You didn’t think, did you, that just by pointing your finger at others you would distract God from seeing all your misdoings and from coming down on you hard? Or did you think that because he’s such a nice God, he’d let you off the hook? Better think this one through from the beginning. God is kind, but he’s not soft. In kindness he takes us firmly by the hand and leads us into a radical life-change.” **Romans 2:3-4** Message

Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. **1 Peter 2:10**

**Rod Wilson:** “What defines us as a people is not sins we've committed but mercy experienced.”