

Title: Catch and Release

Text: John 8:1-11

Big Idea: When we are caught by sin we can still be released from the judgment of sin.

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“There is little reason for doubting that the event here described occurred”

- D,A, Carson The Gospel According to John, 333

John 8:3

3 The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst

John 8:4-5

4 they said to him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. 5 Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?”

1. Woman: Caught Red Handed:

Deuteronomy 22:22

“If a man is found lying with the wife of another man, both of them shall die,

Leviticus 20:10

10 “If a man commits adultery with the wife of his neighbor, both the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.

John 8:6-7

6 This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. 7 And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.”

2. Jesus: Trapped... but... not Caught

Deut 19:16-19 (NLT)

16 “If a malicious witness comes forward and accuses someone of a crime, 17 then both the accuser and accused must appear before the Lord by coming to the priests and judges in office at that time. 18 The judges must investigate the case thoroughly. If the accuser has brought false charges against his fellow Israelite, 19 you must impose on the accuser the sentence he intended for the other person. In this way, you will purge such evil from among you.

John 8:7

“Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.”

3. Religious Leaders: Caught in Their Own Trap

John 8:9-10

9 But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him.

Romans 2:1 Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things.

John 8:10-11

10 Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" 11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."

4. The Woman: Taught and Released

Application:

1. When caught by sin you can be released from sin
2. When others are caught in sin remember your own sin: "Pursuing holiness without a profound experience of grace in our own lives produces hypocrisy and doctrinaire cruelty." - John Piper
3. Catch and release your stone throwing ways