

Series: Life to the Full; Sermon: **A Woman Caught in Adultery**
Delivered by: **Dr. Josh Moody**, senior pastor; Date: **March 11, 2018**

Bible text explored: John 7:53–8:11

⁷They went each to his own house, ⁸but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. ²Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. ³The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst ⁴they said to him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. ⁵Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?” ⁶This 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. ⁷And 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.” ⁸And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. ⁹But 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. ¹⁰Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” ¹¹She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.”^[a] [ESV]

^[a]The earliest manuscripts do not include 7:53–8:11

Review and application:

1. **“It happens all the time”** -- Take a minute to reconstruct the scene. *A woman, rushed to the judgment place, by people who had already censured her.* Share with the group some of the ways this scene might play out in your life today.
 - a. When has someone condemned you? (“expressed complete disapproval of, typically in public”) Your boss? Your kids? Your spouse? A neighbor?
 - b. When have you condemned someone else, verbally, socially, or “privately”? An employee? A friend? Someone who cut you off on the highway? Your spouse? Your children?
 - c. When has your own behavior resulted in your self-condemnation? Feeling guilty about something you did or didn’t do? Something you said? A betrayal of trust?
 - d. When has someone wanted you to bring judgment on another? A child ratting on a sibling’s behavior? An employee pointing at a colleague’s shortcoming? Other?
2. Now that you have put yourself in the roles of the woman, the Pharisees, and Jesus, let’s look at what can be learned about law and grace from this passage.
3. What were the stated motives behind the actions of these Pharisees?
 - a. How well qualified (or not!) were they to bring judgment on the woman? Why?
 - b. How well qualified was Jesus to bring judgment on her? Why?
4. What were the real motives behind the actions of these Pharisees?
5. How well-versed were the Pharisees in God’s law and God’s grace? Can you cite some real-life biblical examples the Pharisees overlooked in their rush to judgment?
6. What are the variety of ways that you or the culture today fill in the blanks in the following statement? *“You can temporarily drown your conscience with _____ but soon enough it will come back to warn you.”* How did the woman in the passage fill in the blank?
7. What are some of the ways God has extended grace to you? Can you think of ways you have extended grace to others? To yourself?
8. What parables of Jesus link grace received to grace extended?
9. Although Jesus the Protector and Redeemer extended grace to the woman, what did Jesus the Master require? (v. 11) How can that requirement be fulfilled in a world that is full of sin?
10. **For personal reflection:** If Jesus rushed into the rooms of your life right now, is there anything there you thought could stay hidden? How effective do you think your human or self-justifying witnesses will be in protecting you at God’s ultimate, inevitable court of law? How can you approach Jesus the Protector and Redeemer to bring a solution to that dilemma?