



## When Grace Interrupts

John 8:2-11 [CSB]: "At dawn, he went to the temple again, and all the people were coming to him. He sat down and began to teach them. Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery, making her stand in the center.

"Teacher," they said to him, "this woman was caught in the act of committing adultery. In the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So, what do you say?" They asked this to trap him, in order that they might have evidence to accuse him. Jesus stooped down and started writing on the ground with his finger. When they persisted in questioning him, he stood up and said to them, "The one without sin among you should be the first to throw a stone at her." Then he stooped down again and continued writing on the ground.

When they heard this, they left one by one, starting with the older men. Only he was left, with the woman in the center. When Jesus stood up, he said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, Lord," she answered.

"Neither do I condemn you," said Jesus. "Go, and from now on do not sin anymore."

John 8:4: "Teacher," they said to him, "this woman was caught in the act of committing adultery [...]"

Deuteronomy 22:22: "If a man is discovered having sexual relations with another man's wife, both the man who had sex with the woman and the woman must die. [...]"

John 8:11: "Go, and from now on do not sin anymore."

Hosea 2:14: "Therefore, I am going to persuade her, lead her to the wilderness, and speak tenderly to her."  
Jesus interrupts both the cycle of sin and the cycle of public shaming.

John 8:6-7: "They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing Him." "When they persisted in questioning him, he stood up and said to them, 'The one without sin among you should be the first to throw a stone at her.'"

Self-awareness.

Merriam-Webster's definition of "ponder" is:

1. To weigh in the mind;
2. To think or consider especially quietly, soberly, and deeply.

"Those who do not think about their own sins make up for it by thinking incessantly about the sins of others. It is healthier to think of one's own." – C.S. Lewis

Jesus interrupts the tendency to twist Scripture to serve our own agendas.

John 8:9: "When they heard this, they left one by one, starting with the older men."

Jesus interrupts their (and our) shallow sense of justice.

Micah 6:8: "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly[a] with your God."

Psalms 85:10: "Mercy and truth meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other."

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*All scriptures referenced are from the New International Version (NIV) translation of the Bible unless otherwise indicated.*