

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **John 8:1-11**.
- B. The word forgiveness is one of the sweetest words ever said. To forgive is a divine quality that each person needs and should wonderfully appreciate.
- C. When we are forgiven, things change and we should change too. This lesson deals with the fruit of forgiveness which should be a changed life.

## I. COMMANDMENT KEEPERS DON'T ALWAYS SHOW FORGIVENESS.

- A. Text: John 8:1-5.
- B. The woman of the story is caught in the very act of adultery. She is guilty of sin and under the Law needs to be punished. She also needs forgiveness.
- C. Too many of us want **justice instead of forgiveness**. We want to see the guilty punished, and punished immediately. The problem is--we are guilty too, and to be consistent we should also bring swift punishment upon ourselves.
- D. Truly, to be guilty of one point in the law is to be guilty of it all (Jas. 2:10).
- E. But, attitude has a lot to do with it. Those who brought the woman had the wrong attitude toward her, and her sin. Commandment keepers don't always show forgiveness. How many times have we seen lawyers and scribes wishing to use the law to test Jesus instead of seeing Him in fulfillment of it.
- F. Our attitude toward those who commit sin should not be one of condemnation, but of forgiveness and education.
- G. Remember the unjust steward who was unwilling to forgive his debtor after he was forgiven a great debt (Mt. 18:28-30).  
*"But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and began to choke him, saying, 'Pay back what you owe.' [29] 'So his fellow slave fell down and began to entreat him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you.' [30] 'He was unwilling however, but went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed.*

## II. ACCUSERS ARE NOT FORGIVERS.

- A. Text: John 8:6-8.
- B. The text says in 8:7 that they persisted. Making accusations is easy, but we must live with what we say. Let us be careful in accusing others, that we do not accuse ourselves.
- C. Satan continually accuses Xians of wrong doing in the presence of God. When we spend time dwelling on the sins of others, instead of trying to help them, we are helping the devil (Rev. 12:10).  
*And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night."*
- D. We are to be doers of the law (Jas. 1:22) not judges of it. May we be doers of the word and not judges of others (Jas. 4:11).  
*Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother, or judges his brother, speaks against the law, and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a judge of it.*
- E. Instead of pointing out faults and sins, may we learn to **encourage and forgive** (Col. 3:13).  
*bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.*

## III. FORGIVENESS REQUIRES SELF-EXAMINATION.

- A. Text: John 8:9-10.
- B. The reason that the scribes and Pharisees could not extend forgiveness to this woman was because they were unwilling to do any self-examination of their own lives. Oh, to be able to see ourselves as God sees us (Rev. 3:17).

“Because you say, “I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,” and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked,”

- C. Paul told the Corinthians to examine themselves to see if they are in the faith. That is, we are to constantly “take inventory” of our lives so that we can live under God’s forgiveness and learn to forgive others (2Cor. 13:5).

Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you-- unless indeed you fail the test?

- D. One place we can have the best self-examination is in prayer to God. When we pray we can tell God of our deepest sins and problems. As we pray we should learn to forgive (Mk. 11:25).

“And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your transgressions.”

- E. Also, remember that a self-examination means a fair and reasonable judgment given to others. Judging by the word of God, and judging self first, it allows to humbly look at others (Mt. 7:2).

“For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you.”

#### IV. THE FRUIT OF FORGIVENESS IS A CHANGED LIFE.

- A. Text: John 8:11.
- B. Look at what the Lord told this woman. He told her that He forgave her (because He did not condemn her), and then told her to sin no more.
- C. The real fruit of forgiveness is a changed life--**go and sin no more**.
- D. When we come to grips of how powerful forgiveness is, we will change our life and do right.
- E. When the young son, the prodigal son, came home forgiveness was extended by the father. This young man had changed his life (remember that he wanted to be only a slave), see Lk. 15:11-32.

#### CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. The fruit of forgiveness is a changed life.
- B. My prayer for each one is that we understand the greatness of being forgiven and then turn our appreciation into faithfulness.
- C. Commandment keepers, and accusers don’t have an easy time showing forgiveness.
- D. But those who take self-examination and understand the power in forgiveness will be able to change their lives, and extend forgiveness to others.
- E. Forgiveness is found in the blood of Jesus, nothing else.
- F. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring-Xians.