

**Sonoraville Baptist Church**  
**Sunday, September 5, 2010 – 11:00 AM**  
**Rev. Steve Skates, Pastor**

**Series: Portraits of Jesus**  
**The Sinner's Best Friend - John 8:1-11**

**Introduction:** Once a man was hanging a sign advertising puppies for sale, when he felt a tug on his overalls. A little boy looked up at him and said, *"I want to buy a puppy."* said the boy.

*"You do! Well, how much money do you have,"* asked the man?

*"I've got a dollar. Is that enough,"* asked the little boy?

*"Sure,"* said the man. And with that he let out a whistle. *"Here, Dolly!"* he called. Out from the doghouse ran Dolly followed by five little pups. As the dogs made their way to the fence, the little boy noticed that one of the puppies was smaller, and crippled in one leg and having a hard time keeping up with the others. This was clearly the runt of the litter.

*"I want that one,"* said the boy pointing to the runt.

The man knelt down at the boy's side and said, *"Son, you don't want that puppy. He'll never be able to run and play with you like these other dogs would."*

With that the little boy reached down, and began rolling up the leg of his trousers, revealing a steel brace running down his leg. Looking back up at the man, he said, *"You see, sir, I don't run too well myself, and he'll need a friend who understands."*

Jesus knew that in a spiritual sense, we are all handicapped, and are in need of understanding. Thank God we have someone who loves us and understands us like we are. Thank God He sent us a Savior who wants to be our friend, even when we've been His enemy. Thank God we have a Savior who knows what we face in our lives day by day. How does He know? He lived as one of us for 33 years!

In Chapter 8, John paints a picture of Jesus as a Friend who loves sinners and reaches out to them in forgiveness and love. Today, I want to tell you about Jesus: The Sinner's Best Friend. Let's read about Him in vs. 1-11:

*1 But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.*

*2 At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them.*

*3 The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group*

*4 and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery.*

*5 In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?"*

*6 They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger.*

*7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her."*

*8 Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.*

*9 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.*

*10 Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"*

*11 "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin." **John 8:1-11 (NIV)***

John 8 opens with Jesus sitting down to teach in the Temple. Jesus was always ready willing and able to teach the mysteries of the Kingdom to any willing audience. But on this occasion, the people were going to get a lesson in compassion and understanding like they had never witnessed before.

Notice the three main characters in this story. First let's see:

**1. The Sinful Woman (3)**

**A. Her Sin** - The Scribes (Teachers) and Pharisees interrupted the class by bringing a lady whom they had caught in the act of adultery. She was guilty before the Lord and before the world. Now, adultery is an ugly sin,

but it's no worse than any other. **James 2:10 (NIV)** says, "*For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.*" I said that so that we would all understand that we're all as guilty of sin as this woman. But then, let's notice:

**B. Her Shame** - Because of the fact that her accusers caught this woman in the very act of adultery, they probably didn't give her time to get properly dressed before they brought her to Jesus. So, not only was she being accused of a crime, she was being publicly humiliated.

That's what sin does. Whether we've been caught by man or not, the fact is sin is such a shameful thing! It's an act of rebellion against God - a slap in the face of God, but more than that, sin is missing the mark of the standard God expects of us, and that's a shameful thing. But I also want us to see:

**C. Her Sentence** - What the Scribes and Pharisees said in vs. 5 was absolutely correct! According to the Law, she deserved to die. **Leviticus 20:10 (NIV)** says, "*If a man commits adultery with another man's wife--with the wife of his neighbor--both the adulterer and the adulteress must be put to death.*" But there was one small problem here: Where was her partner? Both were supposed to die for this sin! Perhaps he got away. Perhaps this was all a setup, and he was part of the scheme to attack Jesus. We just don't know. But the point is, this woman was guilty and she deserved to die.

The lesson is this: Nobody gets away with sin! There will come a payday someday! The only hope any sinner has is to run to Jesus. He's the only hope anyone has. He's the only way out.

And notice this: In their effort to humiliate this woman and to discredit the Lord, the Pharisees and teachers brought her to the very man who could deal with her problems.

Listen, these people thought what a lot of people think. They thought that Jesus would be her judge and jury. They thought He'd point the finger at her, throw the book at her, and hang her high. Never in their wildest dreams did they think He'd forgive her!

So, if you're here this morning, and you're like this sinful woman and you've done some things you're not proud of, don't think that Jesus condemns you and doesn't care for you. You need to know that He's the friend of sinners because He's concerned with your eternal soul! Secondly, let's meet:

## **2. The Self-Righteous Critics (3-9)**

**A. Their Plan** This group of Scribes and Pharisees who interrupted this class, and paraded this adulterous woman before Jesus, had a plan. They were trying to put Jesus between a rock and a hard place. Their thinking was, if Jesus let the woman go, then He'd be seen as being soft on sin and could have been arrested for being in violation of the Law. And if He gave the OK for the woman to be killed, then He could be accused of stirring up a rebellion against the Roman government. They thought they had finally trapped Him.

**B. Their Problems** - Their plan might have succeeded with an ordinary man, but they were dealing with God's Son here, and He simply refused to play by their rules! When they tried to stump Jesus, They found out that they'd met their match. Notice how He responded to their arguments.

**1. They Were Ignored (6)** - While they were talking to the Lord, He just knelt down and began to write on the ground. He had no use for their little games and lack of love for sinners.

What did Jesus write? Well, for 2,000 years, men have tried to solve that little mystery. Today, I am going to give you a deep theological answer: I don't know! And, neither does anyone else! Whatever He wrote, it got their attention. Maybe He wrote:

- The 10 Commandments. After all, He wrote them first!
- All the accusers' names.
- Maybe He wrote all the accusers' girlfriends names!

**2. They Were Exposed (7-9)** - When Jesus did speak, He said, "*If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.*" **John 8:7 (NIV)**. Now let's stop here. Many people wonder if Jesus was being soft on sin. No, if anything, He was actually giving the OK for this woman's execution. But really, I think that Jesus was saying to these hypocrites, "*You that are free from this particular sin can go ahead and throw stones.*"

You see, Jesus knew that adultery can be committed with the head and the heart just as sure as it can with the body! And that's when all the shouting stopped and the rocks dropped, and everyone went home. Everyone had been caught "*in the act*" so to speak.

Turn with me to Romans 2:1. It is a commentary on what Jesus was telling these potential executioners.

*"You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the*

other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.” **Romans 2:1 (NIV)** You see, the Lord sees all, hears all, and knows all. When these people saw themselves as they really were, they stopped calling for the woman’s death, because they knew that’s what they deserved.

Folks, one of the hardest things you can face is seeing yourself as you really are! We want to think everything’s all right. We want to believe that we’re OK. But it’s not until we see ourselves as sinful and guilty before the Lord, that He can do anything about it.

The Prophet Nathan had to bring David face to face with his sin before he would confess. Paul would have went to Hell had he not been brought face to face with himself on the road to Damascus. When we are convicted of our sins, that is the time to come to Jesus. He’s the only One who can deal with your sin problem! Finally, let’s take a closer look at:

### **3. The Sympathetic Savior (9b-11)**

After the self-righteous accusers all left the temple one-by-one, all that was left was a sobbing woman and a sympathetic Savior. And what did Jesus do then? First:

**A. He Faced Her (10)** - Now, maybe this woman already had heard of Jesus - we don’t know. If she had, she must have thought to herself, “*He’s the only one who CAN throw the first stone. I’m probably a dead woman.*” And sure enough, He was the only One who was without sin and thus qualified to take up the first stone, and stone her to death. So when Jesus faced this sinful woman, He was facing her as her ultimate judge!

She had reached a place in her life where it was just her and Jesus. It always comes down to the fact that, somewhere, someday you’re going to have to face Jesus. You may have already faced Him as He’s given you opportunities before to come to Him. What have you done with them? What will you do with this one? You’ll either come to Him or walk away from Him. But know this - if you continue to walk away from Him as your Savior, you’ll ultimately face Him as your judge. What you do with Jesus will determine where and how you spend eternity!

**B. He Forgave Her (11)** - But notice, the only One qualified to throw a stone refused to! Jesus had compassion on her. Everybody else saw her as worthless and they were ready to throw her on the trash heap, but Jesus saw her as someone worthy of His love and worth salvaging. When she came to Jesus, she received two blessings that forever changed her life. These same two blessings are gifts God wants to give everyone who will receive Jesus as their Savior. What are they? First He wants to give you:

**1. A New Lord** - This woman came to Jesus as a slave to sin. Up to this point, sin had been her master, and had led her to a life of immorality and shame and guilt. But on this day, she met a new Master. She met someone who did not condemn her, but offered her compassion, grace, love, and forgiveness. And by faith, she accepted it all. Jesus became her new Lord and Master. But Jesus also gave her

**2. A New Life** - When Jesus set her free, she was immediately transformed. **2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)** says, “... *if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*”

That’s what Jesus does. He takes wasted, ruined lives, saves them by His grace and restores them to usefulness. Every person who comes to Jesus for salvation gets a chance to begin again, and make something out of their lives.

**Conclusion:** In his book *I Was Wrong*, Jim Bakker tells of what happened to him immediately after his release from prison. He wrote: “...*Franklin [Graham] said he wanted to help me out with a job, a house, and a car. He said, ‘Jim, you were my friend in the past and you are my friend now.’*”

*The first Sunday out, Ruth Graham called the halfway house I was living in and asked permission for me to go to the Montreat Presbyterian Church with her that Sunday morning. When I got there, the pastor welcomed me and sat me with the Graham family....The organ began playing and the place was full except for a seat next to me. Then the doors opened and in walked Ruth Graham. She walked down that aisle and sat next to inmate 07407-058. I had only been out of prison 48 hours, but she told the world that morning that Jim Bakker was her friend.”*

Maybe this morning you’re here and you think your life has been wrecked and ruined by sin. Maybe you have been hurt by religious people. Maybe you are looking for a friend, one who will make everything right. I want to invite you to come to Jesus. He cares about you just like you are. He loves you and wants to save you. He wants to deliver you from your bondage, and set you free. He invites you to come to Him today.