

I. Jesus Disciples the Mind, Heart, and Will: The Adulterous Woman

A. The Story

1. Jesus is teaching in temple (public)
2. Pharisees and scribes brought to him a woman who had been caught in adultery.
 - a. Engaged in a physical, sexually intimate relationship with a man not her husband.
 - b. Her sin
 - (1) Broken the basic commandments of God's covenant
 - (a) Thou shalt not commit adultery
 - (b) Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's anything, let alone their spouse
 - (c) Thou shalt not have any gods before me
 - (2) Broken the commitment to faithfulness in her marriage covenant
 - c. She was caught,
 - (1) either by her husband or the other man's wife or someone in the community or one of the scribes or Pharisees.
 - (2) She caught in the act -
 - (a) this is not hearsay but witnessed.
 - (b) there is no investigation required.
 - (c) The Law of Moses required that individuals caught in the act of adultery be stoned to death
 - i) **Leviticus 20:10 (ESV)** *"If a man commits adultery with the wife of his neighbor, both the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.*
 - ii) **Deuteronomy 22:22-24 (ESV)** *"If a man is found lying with the wife of another man, both of them shall die, the man who lay with the woman, and the woman. So you shall purge the evil from Israel. "If there is a betrothed virgin, and a man meets her in the city and lies with her, then you shall bring them both out to the gate of that city, and you shall stone them to death with stones, the young woman because she did not cry for help though she was in the city, and the man because he violated his neighbor's wife. So you shall purge the evil from your midst.*
 - a) The Law reveals the perfection of God's holiness

- b) The Law tempers the inclination toward unfettered sin in human society
 - c) The Law reveals the inescapable need for a Savior!
 - (3) Jesus is presented with a clear sin, clear, guilt, and a clear call to action
 - (a) Pharisees - *“Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?”*
 - (b) Let’s be clear
 - i) This is a test for Jesus
 - ii) A very partial test because if she was caught in the act of adultery, the man should be standing there as well.
 - iii) So there is also a clear ulterior motive
- 3. Jesus bent down and wrote with His finger on the ground.
 - a. We don’t know what He wrote
 - (1) Was it the name of the adulterous man?
 - (2) Was it the names of all the men in the crowd who had slept with this woman and were therefore also subject to stoning?
 - (3) Was it simply each of the ten commandments, which in Hebrew are each only one word long?
 - b. We don’t know what He wrote but I think He wrote, at least, the word that is the ninth commandment
 - (1) Do not bear false witness against your neighbor
 - (2) Because it is the one sin every single one of them is committing at that moment, and it too is punishable under the Law
- 4. Jesus returns to writing on the ground
- 5. The accusers all slink away until only the accused and guilty woman and Jesus are left
- 6. At this moment, Jesus directly disciples the next generation and teaches us something crucial about discipling the next generation.

B. Jesus Disciples the Mind, Heart, and Will

- 1. Jesus instructs the mind
 - a. Gathers the facts (disciples the mind):
 - (1) *“Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”*
 - (2) Every one has gone.
 - (3) No one, let alone two or three witnesses, has condemned her
 - b. **Folks, we can and we must teach the next generation to substance, and content, and meaning of God’s word so that they will know the facts about God and their relationship to Him.**
 - c. But, Jesus does not stop with simply asserting the facts.

2. Jesus engages the heart
 - a. *Neither do I condemn you.*
 - b. Jesus connects the facts with God's attitude toward her making the connection to her heart
 - (1) He relieves her guilt through forgiveness, an act of will on His part that she does not deserve
 - (a) The human heart expects judgment and condemnation of guilt
 - (b) God offers mercy and grace and compassion and forgiveness
 - (2) God's word is given not just for our heads but for our hearts
 - (a) David Michael reminds us in *Zealous* that *[the] movement from head to heart is ultimately the work of God; however, God's Spirit is often pleased to accomplish that work through parents and teachers who not only instruct the mind but also engage the heart of the child.*
 - (b) Let me remind you that even though David is focusing on the relationship between adults and children, the principle applies to all our discipling relationships. **We must not only instruct the mind, we have to work to engage the heart.**
 - i) We must urge the next generation to trust Christ.
 - ii) How?
 - a) Ask questions that help the next generation understand the true condition of their heart.
 - b) Help the next generation connect biblical truth to real life situations they experience. (Pandemic-vaccine)
 - c) Encourage the next generation to actively interact with and respond to the truth.
 - d) Guide the next generation to seeing what heart desires and affections God commands.
 - 1) Take them back to the word for the answers to their questions about how they should respond to God.
3. Jesus influences the will
 - a. *Go, and from now on sin no more*
 - b. While the ability to make choices of faith and obedience comes

- from the Holy Spirit, the action of our choices come from the will.
- c. ***“God expects His children to exert real effort – submitting and conforming their wills to His perfect will.”***
 - d. Jesus set the command of God before the woman: go, and sin no more.
 - (1) He presented her with the standard He expected of her
 - (2) He set before her the perpetual choice He expected her to make in light of the grace and mercy He extended.
 - (3) He gave her a path to follow
 - (4) **As He disciplined the next generation in this moment, He did not only instruct the mind and engage the heart, he called upon an act of will, a commitment to embrace God’s will in her actions and conduct from that moment forward.**
 - e. *Zealous*, page 68-69, six suggestions for how to influence the will of the next generation toward faithfulness and obedience

II. Conclusion

A. The primary reason for today’s message:

1. encouraging each of us at Cornerstone to commit to discipling the next generation
2. Embracing our educational responsibility to serve the glory of God by bringing the next generation to faith in Christ

B. Another important reason for this message

1. Some of you stand before God today deeply burdened by guilt and the sins of the past.
2. You hear of Jesus compassion and mercy toward the woman caught in her sins, and you hear your voice crying out, “Me! Me! I’m the one. I’m the one who needs mercy! I’m the one who needs to hear, ‘Neither do I condemn thee; go and sin no more.’”
3. You are the one who stands before Christ and the throne of God with your head down and your heart broken and your spirit crushed and your will enslaved and there is just one word that passes your lips into the glory of eternity: “Please!”
4. Listen to the word of God to you:
 - a. **1 John 1:8-9 (ESV) *If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***
 - b. If we confess our sins to God, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
 - c. If we confess our sin, our guilt, our need to Christ, he is faithful and just. He will disciple the mind, heart, and will:
 - (1) Neither do I condemn thee
 - (2) Go and sin no more
 - (a) Confess your sin and guilt to God

- (b) Put your faith in Jesus
- (c) Commit to knowing Him and following Him for the rest of your life.