

## It's Better to Be Caught

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

**John 8:1-11** tells the story of the woman caught in adultery. She was brought to Jesus in an attempt to discredit him. They cared not for justice, or the law, their aim was to turn the people against Jesus. If it were justice and the keeping of the law, then where was the man who was with her? They stated that she was caught in "the very act."

This woman was brought before not only Jesus, but the crowd, and made a spectacle before them all. While everyone should be ashamed of their sin this woman was only a pawn in the eyes of the scribes and Pharisees. Jesus didn't uphold her in her sin, but neither did he overlook the hypocrisy of these Jewish leaders. They had their sins, not the least of which was hate, lying, and many others.

The result was that the accusers went out in shame and the woman was forgiven. They didn't ask, or receive, forgiveness for their sins. Considering the whole account of this story, I think that we can say that it

was good for her that she was caught in her sin. If she had not been, would she have continued in her sinful ways? She probably would have, whether this was her first time to commit adultery, or where it was her common practice. She was forgiven and had a new start in life, so maybe the scribes and Pharisees did her a favor by bringing her to Jesus.

Now, let us consider the man that she had committed adultery with. Where was he? Who was he? In protecting him the Pharisees and scribes didn't bring him to Jesus. While we don't know the name of the woman, the people that witnessed her "trial" did. The man was not known, but to the men who caught them in the sinful act. Yet, God knows his name and all about him. We may hide our sins from man but never from God. **Proverbs 28:13**, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but who-so confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy. He was spared the shame of being charged before the crowd and Jesus, but what about in the judgment of God?"

**1 Timothy 5:24**, "Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after." Since he didn't come with the woman and face Jesus, he didn't hear the Lord say, "Neither do I con-

demn thee, go and sin no more." It is better to have to face our sins and to repent of them than to cover, or ignore, them and to continue in them.

Can you imagine the shame that the woman had when her sins were made known to all the crowd? She was embarrassed not only before the people and the Lord, but her family and friends as well. She may have received forgiveness from the Lord Jesus, but what about her husband? Whether she did, or not, she was forgiven by God and hopefully she was a better person from then on.

The unknown man may have gotten away with his sin here on earth and no one ever told on him. Yet he still will have to face the Lord Jesus at the judgment. Wouldn't it have been much better if he too had been brought before the Lord on that day? Until we face, and admit our sins we will never ask forgiveness of God. Sins, we all have to face them, but it is good to know that if we confess them and ask the Lord he will forgive us. Don't hide and ignore your faults, go to the Lord and tell him, repenting of them and trying to do better. No sin, whether an action, or even a thought can be hidden from God. Believers may not be perfect, but they set their sights on it and aim for a life that pleases God.

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WISE KING SOLOMON: A GREAT LOVER OR — A GREAT DIPLOMAT?

I KINGS, CHAPTER 11, TELLS US... "SOLOMON LOVED MANY STRANGE WOMEN... THE DAUGHTER OF PHARAOH... AND WOMEN OF THE MOABITES, AMMONITES..." ETC., ETC... AND SOLOMON HAD 700 WIVES, 300 CONCUBINES!

SOLOMON FIRST MARRIED AN EGYPTIAN PRINCESS, THE DAUGHTER OF PHARAOH SIMON XXI 21<sup>ST</sup> DYNASTY (976-958 B.C.) WITH A FATHER-IN-LAW LIKE THIS, HE DIDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT TROUBLE ON HIS SOUTHERN BORDERS — IN FACT, EGYPT CONQUERED THE PHILISTINE STRONGHOLD OF GAZA, GIVING IT TO SOLOMON AS A WEDDING PRESENT!

ALL OF SOLOMON'S WIVES WERE PRINCESSES OF OTHER COUNTRIES AND FROM THESE MARRIAGES CAME GREAT TREATIES AND COMMERCE — SUCH AS CEDAR FROM LEBANON, TO BUILD HIS TEMPLE, FROM FATHER-IN-LAW, KING HIRAM OF TYRE!

HAVING THE RULER OF ALL HIS NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AS A FATHER-IN-LAW, SOLOMON WAS SAFE FROM ATTACK AND SPENT ALL HIS TIME AND ENERGY IN MAKING HIS KINGDOM THE RICHEST IN THE NEAR EAST — IN THE ENTIRE 40 YEARS OF HIS REIGN, ISRAEL NEVER HAD TO GO TO WAR!

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