

DISCUSSION 1

Jesus vs. the Pharisees: their attitude

1. What attitude do the scribes and Pharisees have toward the woman in this passage?
2. Read Matt. 23:1-13. How does Jesus describe the scribes and Pharisees in this passage?
3. How could the scribes and Pharisees have handled the situation in a way that honored God? How should we deal with people found in sin (Matt. 18:15-20; Gal. 6:1)?

DISCUSSION 2

Jesus vs. the Pharisees: their response

1. According to John 8:6, what is the real reason the Pharisees and scribes brought this woman before Jesus?
2. John Piper once said, “The way that you can tell if you’re a Pharisee or not is based upon how you act around vile and wicked sinners.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why?
3. How does the fact that we all struggle with sin influence the way we see others when they are caught in sin (Rom. 3:9-18)?

DISCUSSION 3

Jesus offers grace

1. Compare Jesus’s words in this passage to what Paul says in Romans 8:31-34.
2. When we sin, who is our offense truly against? How should this affect our repentance (Ps. 51:4)?

3. What does Jesus's reaction to the woman tell us about his heart toward sinners (also see Luke 15; John 3:16)?
4. Jesus forgives the woman's sin, but what does he tell her to do (John 8:11)? Why do you think he tells her this?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. How would you describe the way the Pharisees and scribes treat the woman in this passage? Have you ever acted that way when you've seen a sibling or a friend do something wrong?
2. Does Jesus treat the woman the same way the Pharisees and scribes do?
3. After we confess our sin to God, what should we do?

APPLICATION

- Get together with a friend and talk about ways you can show God's love to someone who society sees as an outcast.
- Think about someone who has recently come to Christ or is going through a hard time. Pray about how God might have you come alongside them in godly love.