

You're In Good Hands...

Long Beach Alliance Church • Easter Sunday • March 31st, 2013 • Pastor Chris Lankford

Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."

~John 8:10-11 (ESV)

1) Caught In The Act

- A) Some of the greatest stories in the Bible about Jesus have to do with His encounters with women. Jesus treated women with tremendous respect and equality, rejecting an abusive culture against the weak by showing compassion.
- B) In one culturally significant story, Jesus spends time with an unnamed woman who is drawing water at midday from a city well. Every indication of the story (ethnicity, gender roles, social status, and sexual fidelities) reveal God's great compassion and authenticity for people (John 4:7-38).
- C) The multi-layered story gets intensely interesting when Jesus offers the woman a "spring of living water" for her and her husband (4:14-16). Like many of us, she is caught, offering a half-truth (4:17-19), trying fruitlessly to hide her painful reality. Without hesitation, Jesus "catches" her.
- D) Not long after this time, another woman is brought to Jesus, actually caught in the act of committing adultery (John 8:1-11). Not only was adultery punishable by death (8:5), but imagine the public humiliation for the woman!
- E) In one of the greatest moments of Jesus' public teaching career, he "stoops" down to write in the sand (8:6).

- F) After extending clear instruction to the leaders who were questioning Jesus (8:7), Jesus “stoops” again to write in the sand (8:8).
- G) One-by-one, from the greybeards to the blackbeards, from creased faces to those kissed with youth, each accuser slowly peels away from the scene, leaving the sand artist alone with the “accused and condemned” (8:9).

2) The Best Place You Could Ever Be In

- A) None of us like being in the place where we get “caught in the act” of a humiliating/embarrassing situation where we know for sure – we’ve really screwed up this time...
- B) For some of us, our whole lives have been spent trying to cover these moments in our lives. If the truth were known, life has become a battle to cover up our failures and faults, desperately running from being caught.
- C) But here is the great news... Jesus already knows everything about us. He is not surprised. He is not fooled. He is not shocked. He is not embarrassed. He is not freaking out. He is not losing His mind. He is not condemning you (8:10-11). He has not thrown you away, and He does not want you to throw Him away.
- D) This might sound crazy, but the best place you could ever be in your life, is caught by Jesus Christ. Read that again, would you? Get caught! There is no better place to be!

3) The Good Hands Of Trusting Jesus Christ

- A) Why is getting caught by Jesus the best place to be? It’s what Easter is really all about! See, the story of Easter is that Jesus rose from the dead, that all things are made new, that death has no power over Jesus Christ.
- B) Confessing our sin (the stuff Jesus already knows) and trusting in Jesus (Ephesians 2:8-9) provides salvation, and then the power of Easter comes alive in our own lives. Have you trusted Jesus Christ? Respond to Jesus today!