

SECOND CHANCES

JOHN 8:1-11 – ERIC SIMPSON - DECEMBER 2, 2018

John 8:3-7

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."

sins of the flesh – lust, greed, gluttony, drunkenness, slothfulness...etc.

vs.

sins of the spirit – pride, arrogance, self-righteousness, cynicism, judgmentalism...etc.

"What is so insidious about the sins of the spirit is that the carriers don't have a clue. At least with sins of the flesh, you find out you have messed up. With the sins of the spirit, you may not even know. You just walk through life with a stone in your hand: judgmental thoughts, a superior attitude, impatient words, bitter resentments, little room for love. People stand around you—trembling in brokenness, guilt, fear, lostness—but you're so caught up in your own self-righteousness you don't even see them. Or worse yet, you see them and are not moved." – John Ortberg

John 8:8-11

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."

The Gospel of Second Chances...

- Sees people as eternal beings made in God's image
- Embraces failures as opportunities for new beginnings
- Believes it's about more than who you ARE, it's about who you COULD BE.

"In Jesus, there is the gospel of the second chance. He was always intensely interested, not only in what a person had been, but also in what a person could be. He did not say that what they had done did not matter; broken laws and broken hearts always matter; but he was sure that everyone has a future as well as a past." – William Barclay