

Judging the Judges

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: John 8:1-11.

B. Jesus confronts a band of old priests who condemn a woman found in adultery.

C. There is some dispute about where this section should be in the Bible, but all scholars agree that it is a true story.

II. The contrasts in the passage.

A. The people had homes, but Jesus had none.

B. The judges who found themselves guilty.

1. The woman was caught in the act.

2. This leaves us to wonder where the man was—perhaps he was one of their own. This shows the hypocrisy.

3. Instead of condemning, Jesus merely stoops to write on the ground.

a. Perhaps Jesus wrote the names of those who would be judged. (Jeremiah 17)

b. The priests thought that He was stalling.

4. Jesus says, let he who is sinless cast the first stone.

a. The priests are stunned speechless since they expect that He will let her go. Instead, He upholds the Law of Moses.

b. Jesus is not condoning adultery—adultery attacks everything that God holds dear.

c. Jesus also sees the hearts of these men knowing that they are no better than she is.

5. Jesus stoops to write again.

a. Perhaps He wrote, “you are weighed in the balance and found wanting,” as found in Daniel.

b. The priests all leave knowing that they had sinned.

C. The guilty woman who found herself forgiven.

1. She was set free because there was no one to accuse her.
2. Jesus alone was qualified to judge her, but He allows her to go.
 - a. Justice has to be satisfied.
 - b. However, Jesus found a way to forgive her for her sin.
 - c. There must be repentance, which is agreeing that one acted wrongly. Repentance occurred in her heart. Jesus knew this because He knows the inner thoughts.
3. Jesus says to go and sin no more.
 - a. God must do something to free us from sin in order for this to be possible.
 - b. Jesus never tells us to do something He does not enable us to do. (Titus 2:13-15)
 - c. The Lord sets us free to be a different kind of person.

Application questions:

1. Have you ever judged someone harshly when you were in sin yourself? How would you respond differently in light of the message?

2. What was the basis of the forgiveness that the woman caught in adultery received?

3. What is repentance? How can you restore your relationship to God after making a mistake in light of this?
