

A New Beginning

John 8:1–11

A. Introduction

1. We have all made mistakes in our walk with God. None of us are perfect.
2. There are few things in life that people long for more than a fresh start.
3. Most of us can look back over our lives, & think of moments we regret.
4. One thing is certain: the God who has been faithful will also be faithful in the future.
5. Some people try to walk with God, some struggle, & some have walked away.
6. God's message is the same for every group. There is Hope, Grace & Forgiveness.
7. Our text today introduces us to a woman who believed her life was over.
8. Yet when she encountered Jesus Christ, everything changed.
9. Whatever your past may be, it does not have to determine your future.

B. A Woman Condemned

1. Jesus began teaching the people, until it was suddenly interrupted. (John 8:3)
2. Angry religious leaders force a frightened woman into the middle of the crowd.
3. Publicly humiliated, caught in the very act of adultery. There was no denying her guilt.
4. She was deserving judgment, but the story is about more than one woman's sin.
5. The woman was guilty. She had broken one of His commandments & deserved death.
6. Every one of us has broken God's law & deserve punishment. (Rom 3:23;& 6:23).
7. This woman represents every one of us. We have stood guilty before God.
8. We see hypocrisy of the Pharisees; their real concern was revenge not righteousness.
9. They cared about trapping Jesus more than keeping God's law or showing compassion.
10. *"The Pharisees carried stones in their hands because they had no mercy in their hearts."*
11. Sometimes we are too quick to condemn either the woman or the Pharisees.
12. We should see ourselves in this story. Like the woman, we are guilty sinners.
13. Like the Pharisees, we are capable of pride, hypocrisy, & self-righteousness.
14. Satan continually reminds us of failures. Maybe you carry regrets from years ago.
15. Are you haunted by words spoken, relationships damaged, or sins committed?
16. The wonderful truth is this story is not about condemnation, but the grace of Jesus.

C. The Mercy of Jesus John 8:6–9

1. The religious leaders believed they had placed Jesus in an impossible situation.
2. What did Jesus write? The honest answer is that we do not know.
3. Perhaps John leaves it unanswered because what Jesus wrote is not the main point.
4. The focus is on what Jesus said in Jn 8:7, & what He didn't say or do.
5. He didn't declare her innocent, excuse adultery, or lower God's standard of holiness.
6. Instead, He exposed the hypocrisy of her accusers & showed grace is greater than sin.
7. Satan delights in making us believe that we are beyond God's forgiveness.
8. How many Christians live under that burden, crippled by guilt over past mistakes?
9. Some feel they have failed God too many times ever to be useful again.
10. The cross of Christ demonstrates both God's perfect justice & His amazing mercy.
11. Jesus did not ignore sin; He would bear its penalty Himself. (Romans 8:1)
12. The only One who had the right to throw a stone never picked one up.

D. A New Beginning John 8:10–11

1. Only 2 people remained- a guilty woman & a sinless Saviour. Then comes forgiveness.
2. The only one who had every right to condemn her chose instead to extend mercy.
3. Jesus didn't say she was innocent, that adultery was acceptable, or overlook her sin.
4. Rather, He was showing that He had come into the world not to judge - but to save.
5. The wonder of the Gospel is Jesus can forgive as He Himself would pay the penalty.
6. Justice is satisfied. Mercy is extended. Grace triumphs. The Saviour also transforms.
7. Christ forgives us just as we are, but loves us too much to leave us as we are.
8. Salvation is receiving a new heart, a new direction, & new purpose for living.
9. The woman who entered the temple came expecting death - She left with hope.
10. She entered condemned, filled with shame & walked away forgiven & with a future.
11. That is what Jesus still does today. This woman's story is our story.
12. We all have sinned. We battle pride, anger, greed, lust, bitterness, or unforgiveness.
13. Some carry scars from secret sins, regrets over failures from many years ago.
14. Satan continually reminds us of our failures & struggles, whispering condemnations.
15. But the Gospel says something entirely different. (Romans 8:1)
16. Not less condemnation. Not future condemnation. Not occasional condemnation.
17. No condemnation. When Christ forgives, He forgives completely.
18. When Christ cleanses, He cleanses thoroughly. When Christ restores, He restores fully.
19. Today can be a day of your new beginning. Our God is the God of new beginnings.
20. The story of the woman caught in adultery is not an isolated incident.
21. Throughout Scripture we discover that our God delights in giving people fresh starts.
22. He gave Noah, Rahab, Zacchaeus, Peter, & Saul of Tarsus new beginnings.
23. And He still gives new beginnings today.
24. Perhaps your past is filled with regret. But your past doesn't define your future.
25. Through Jesus Christ, today can become the first day of a new walk with God.
26. You cannot rewrite yesterday, but you can begin writing a different tomorrow.
27. Jesus still forgives, still restores, still transforms, & still gives New Beginnings.
28. Today can be your new beginning. Not because of anything you do.
29. But because of the grace of Jesus Christ,
30. If you need forgiveness, come to Him. If you need restoration, come to Him.
31. If you need strength for tomorrow, come to Him. His invitation is still open.

E. Conclusion

1. The woman expected condemnation, but got forgiveness.
2. She entered with shame, but left with hope. She expected death, but received life.
3. She thought her story had ended.- Jesus was just beginning to write a new chapter.
4. The same Lord still meets people today, taking broken lives & making them whole.
5. Satan has spent years reminding you of your past, that your failures define you.
6. Satan is the accuser, Jesus the Saviour. Satan sees your failures - Jesus sees the cross.
7. Your past explains where you've been, but it doesn't determine where you are going.
8. Because of Jesus Christ, today can truly be a new beginning. (2 Cor 5:17).
9. So today rejoice in this wonderful truth: Our God is the God of new beginnings.
10. Because of His amazing grace, your best chapter may still be ahead.
11. Keep your fork! The best is yet to come!