"Compassion Without Compromise" John 8:1-11

Introduction:

- 1. This Morning As We Continue Our Series:
 - Through The Gospel Of John:
 - We Come To A Surprisingly Controversial Passage:
 - In John 8:1-11 In Which We Find:
 - The Story Of A Woman:
 - Caught In Adultery And:
 - Brought To Jesus!
 - This Passage Is Controversial Today:
 - Not Because Of:
 - Its Content But:
 - Because Of Its Very Presence:
 - In Our Bibles!
- 2. The Argument Goes Like This:
 - Since John 8:1-11 Is Not Found:
 - In The Oldest Greek Manuscripts:
 - That We Currently Have Of The Gospel Of John:
 - From Around The:
 - 3rd & 4th Centuries! (About 4 Main Ones)
 - And Because These Verses:
 - Do Not Seem To Be Written:
 - In The Same Style:
 - As The Rest Of John's Gospel!
 - Then For Some Reason Many Believe That These Verses:
 - Must Have Been Added To The Gospel Of John:
 - After It Was Written:
 - And So It Should Not Be Considered:
 - Part Of The John's Gospel Or:
 - Of The Bible Itself!
 - Though They Do Believe:
 - What Happened In These Verses:
 - Actually Took Place!
 - They Don't Believe It Was Recorded By John In An Inspired Way!
- 3. This Is Why In Most Recent Translations:
 - You Will Find These Verses:
 - In Brackets Or In A Footnote Or:
 - Missing Altogether!
 - However There Is Also Strong Evidence:
 - That This Passage Is Original And:
 - Is Part Of John's Inspired Message:
 - That Has Been Providentially Preserved For Us Today!
 - For One Thing Over The Course Of 2,000 Years:
 - Countless Churches Have Accepted This Passage:
 - As Authentic! So Much So That:
 - We Have Over 450 Greek Manuscripts In Which These Verses Are Present!
 - But Also We Have Some Very Early Evidence:
 - That Early On Some People Might Have Come Up With A Reason:
 - To Remove These Verses:
 - Instead Of Adding Them In!
 - The Church Father:
 - Augustine Of Hippo Who Lived Around:
 - The Same Time As The Earliest Greek Manuscripts That We Have:
 - Made This Statement About These Verses We Are About To Read!
 - "Some Men Of Slight Faith, Or, Rather, Some Hostile To True Faith, Fearing, Is I Believe, That Liberty To Sin With Impunity Is Granted Their Wives, Remove From Their Scriptural Texts The Account Of Our

Lord's Pardon Of The Adulteress, As Though He Who Said: 'From Now On, Sin No More,' Granted Permission To Sin!"

- 4. So There Was Controversy Over These Verses:
 - Even In The Earliest Years Of The Church!
 - But The Controversy Was:
 - About Their *Content* And:
 - What It Might Cause People To Do:
 - With Such Forgiveness & Freedom Granted By The Lord!
 - So Even Then It Was More Likely That These Verses:
 - Would Have Been Removed From The Gospel Of John:
 - Than Added!
 - And So We Are Going To Approach This Passage:
 - As Original & Inspired!
 - And As We Do:
 - I Think We Will See That:
 - The Truths Given Here:
 - Are Truths That Could Never Have Come From The Pen:
 - Of An Uninspired Man!
- 5. So Let's Read These Verses Together:
 - That Occur Not Long After:
 - The Feast Of The Tabernacles!
 - 7:53 8:11 "And every man went unto his own house. / Jesus went unto the mount of Olives. / And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them. / And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, / They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. / Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? / This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with a finger wrote on the ground! / So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. / And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. / And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. / When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? / She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more!"
 - Once Again As We Hear Jesus' Words:
 - Both To The Men:
 - Who Came To Tempt Him!
 - *And* To The Woman:
 - Taken In Adultery!
 - We Can Agree With:
 - The Officers Of The Temple:
 - In 7:46 "Never Man Spake Like This Man!"
- 6. And The Reason For This:
 - Is Because Jesus Christ:
 - Was All Through His Life:
 - "Full Of Grace And Truth!" (1:14)
 - And That "Grace And Truth" Flowed Through Every Word:
 - That He Said!
 - And So In These Verses And:
 - All Throughout Jesus' Life:
 - We Can See That:
 - The Gospel Of Christ Reveals God's Compassion Without Compromise! (2x)
 - It Reveals God's Compassion:
 - On Sinners! Through Jesus' Words:
 - Of Grace!
 - But Without Compromise:
 - With Sin! Through Jesus' Words:
 - Of Truth!
- 7. And This Is What We Find:

- All Through This Real Story:
 - About A Woman Taken In Adultery!
 - Let's Look At These Verses More Closely Together! Where:
- * First The "Grace And Truth" Of Jesus Can Be Seen:
- 1. In His Teaching!
 - In 8:1-2 Where After A Rather Eventful:
 - Feast Of Tabernacles:
 - At Which The People:
 - Constructed Booths In Which They Lived:
 - For 7-8 Days!
 - Though Afterwards In 7:53 "Every Man Went Unto His Own House!"
 - Where Did Jesus Go?
 - 8:1 "Jesus went unto the mount of Olives!"
 - This Reminds Us Of What Jesus Said:
 - In Matthew 8:20 "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head!"
 - But On The Mount Of Olives:
 - There Was A Garden:
 - Where Jesus Is Known To Have Gone:
 - For Rest & Refreshment Especially Through Prayer!
 - And So Not Long After The Feast:
 - We Are Told In 8:2 "And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them!"
 - Don't We See The "Grace & Truth" Of Jesus Even In This?
 - In Spite Of Being Tired:
 - From The Events Of The Last Week:
 - And Even After Traveling:
 - All Those Miles From Galilee!
 - He Still Returned To The Temple:
 - "Early In The Morning!"
 - Probably At The Break Of Dawn!
 - But Also:
 - In Spite Of Being Threatened:
 - By The Pharisees & Chief Priests:
 - He Still Returned To The Temple:
 - "Early In The Morning!"
 - Why Would He Do So? Because:
 - There Was Still:
 - More Work To Be Done!
 - The Temple Was His Father's House And:
 - He Knew That He:
 - "Must Be About (His) Father's Business!" (Luke 2:49)
 - There Was Still:
 - More Grace To Give:
 - To His Lost Sheep Like The Woman:
 - He Was About To Meet!
 - Also He "Came Again Into The Temple!"
 - Because:
 - There Were Still:
 - More Words To Be Said!
 - Many Of The People Who "Came To Him" Were Thirsty And Believed That:
 - He Could Quench Their Spiritual Thirst! (7:37) And So:
 - There Was Still:
 - More Truth To Teach!
 - And So He Did!
 - 8:2 "He Sat Down, And Taught Them!"
 - And As He Taught:

- Out Of His Mouth Continued To Flow:
 - "Grace And Truth!"
 - "Compassion Without Compromise!"
- And This Is What You Will Continue To Find:
 - In "Every Word That Proceedeth Out Of The Mouth Of God!" (Matthew 4:4)
 - Are You Listening To His Words?
 - Are You Learning From His Words?
 - Are You Living According To His Words?
 - Of "Grace And Truth!"
- But This Led To An Interruption:
 - By Some Of The Religious Leaders In The Temple!
 - And Yet We Can Still See His "Grace And Truth" Even:

2. In His Testing!

- Which We Find Next In 8:3-6a:
 - "And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, / They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. / Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? / This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him!"
 - So At Some Point In The Recent Past:
 - A Woman Was "Taken In Adultery!"
 - That Is She Had Been Caught In The Act & Taken Into Custody:
 - By The Jewish Authorities!
 - Of Course There Are A Lot Of Unanswered Questions!
 - Like What Happened To The Man:
 - Who Committed Adultery With Her? Takes Two Right?
 - But Its Pretty Clear That:
 - The Scribes & Pharisees:
 - Who Were Experts In Jewish Law:
 - Weren't After The:
 - Whole Truth In This Matter!
 - Instead They Were After Something:
 - They Could Use:
 - To Test & Try Jesus!
 - And This Woman's Case Was Exactly What They Were Looking For!
 - So They Came To Jesus With This Woman:
 - And 8:3 "Set Her In The Midst!"
 - Right Between Jesus & The Crowd Of Listeners!
 - And Brought Up:
- The Charge Against The Woman!
 - 8:5 "They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act!"
 - So The Guilt Of This Woman:
 - Was Clear! Her Case:
 - Was Essentially Closed!
 - She Had Broken The Seventh Commandment:
 - Of God's Moral Law:
 - Which Said "Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery!" (Exodus 20:14)
 - And There Were Enough Witnesses To Establish The Case Against Her!
 - We Have No Reason To See:
 - A Rush To Judgment Here!
 - She Probably Had More Due Process:
 - Than Jesus Would Have:
 - When It Came Time For His Trial!
 - But Since Her Guilt Was Clear:
 - The Scribes & Pharisees:
 - Shamelessly Use The Shame Of This Woman:
 - In Their Plot Against Jesus! And So In 8:5 They Bring Up:
- The Commands Of God To Jesus!

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- 8:5 - "Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?"
                 - Those Experts Of God's Law:
                         - Referred Back To Verses Like Leviticus 20:10 & Deuteronomy 22:23:
                                  - To Remind Jesus That The Sin Committed By The Woman:
                                          - Was Worthy Of Death!
        - What She Did Was:
                 - A Breach Of God's Supreme Law - From:
                         - God's Supreme Leader (Moses) - About:
                                  - God's Supreme Lesson!
                                          - About Faithfulness!
                         - And - These Leaders:
                                  - Were Right About God's Standards!
        - After All - The Kind Of Sin This Woman Committed:
                 - Along With All Other Kinds Of:
                         - Sexual Deviancy:
                                  - Brought God's Judgment On:
                                          - Many Nations In The Past & Even Will Today!
        - The Lesson Is Still The Same!
                 - Sexual Immorality Is:
                         - A Serious Sin & Crime Against God!
                                  - In All Of Its Forms!
                 - But - As True As This Was & Is:
                         - These Men Did Not Really Care:
                                  - About The Precepts:
                                          - Of God's Law! Nor:
                                  - About The Process:
                                          - Of God's Law! Nor:
                                  - About The People:
                                          - Of God - At All!
        - Rather - John Tells Us - About:
- The Calculation - Of These Leaders!
        - In 8:6 - "This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him!"
                 - They Thought They Had Set:
                         - The Perfect Trap:
                                  - For Jesus!
        - If Jesus Did Not Agree:
                 - With The Punishment:
                         - For This Woman's Crime:
                                  - Then - They Could Accuse Jesus:
                                          - Of Being Opposed To God's Authority & Law!
        - But - If Jesus Did Agree:
                 - With The Punishment:
                         - Then - They Could Accuse Jesus:
                                  - Of Being Opposed To The Authority & Law Of Rome!
        - Because - As We Find Out Later:
                 - In 18:31 - At That Time - It Was Not Lawful:
                         - For The Jews:
                                  - To Put Any Man To Death:
                                          - Without Permission From The Roman Authorities!
- But - Jesus Let Them Have Their Say!
        - But - Jesus Knew The Real Reason:
                 - They Brought This Woman To Him!
        - But - Did Jesus Confront Them?
                 - Did Jesus Chide Them?
                         - Did Jesus Condemn Them? No!
                 - Instead - Showing Great Restraint:
                         - We Are Told In 8:6b:
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- "But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground!"

- What Did Jesus Write?
 - All Kinds Of Ideas!
 - Like The Ten Commandments!
 - Or His Verdict!
 - Or Their Names! (Jeremiah 17:3 "They That Depart From Me Shall Be Written In The Earth, Because They Have Forsaken The Lord, The Fountain Of Living Waters!"
 - Or Something Entirely Different!
 - We Just Don't Know!
- But Through His Restraint:
 - Even Toward His Enemies:
 - Jesus Showed His Compassion Without Compromise!
 - His Grace & Truth!
 - But We Can See This Even More:

3. In His Triumph!

- His Triumph Over His Testing:
 - By The Scribes & Pharisees!
 - 8:7 "So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her!"
 - In Hearing These Words Of Jesus:
 - Once Again We Can Agree With:
 - Those Officers Back In 7:46!
 - "Never A Man Spake Like This Man!"
 - Because Even In These Few Words!
 - Only 9 Words In The Underlying Text!
 - Jesus Shows Us What The Gospel Is!
 - True Compassion Without Compromise!
 - Just Look At What Jesus Reveals:
 - In His Reply! He Reveals His Own:
- True Denouncement:
 - Of The Woman's Sin!
 - In Effect Jesus Agrees With:
 - The Scribes & Pharisees:
 - About The Woman's Guilt!
 - That The Charge Against The Woman:
 - Was True And:
 - The Case Against The Woman:
 - Was Closed!
 - Jesus Said "Let Him Cast / Throw!"
 - The First Stone!
 - If That Woman Was Hoping To Get:
 - Some Kind Of Acquittal From Jesus:
 - That She Was "Not Guilty" Of Her Sin:
 - She Would Not Find It!
 - She Was Guilty As Charged!
 - But Also Jesus Reveals The:
- True Demands:
 - Of God's Law!
 - Jesus Affirmed The Authority Of:
 - God's Supreme Law!
 - That It Was Still Valid!
 - God's Supreme Leader!
 - That God Did Speak The Truth Through Moses! And:
 - God's Supreme Lesson!
 - About Her Kind Of Sin!
 - Still Serious Before A Holy & Righteous God!
 - And That Woman Deserved:
 - The Consequence & Punishment:

- Of Death! Even By Stoning! - "Let Him First Cast A Stone At Her!" - But Then - Jesus Goes Further! - To Reveal The: - Of All Their Hearts! - He Says To The Scribes & Pharisees: - "He That Is Without Sin Among You, Let Him First Cast A Stone At Her!" - Once Again We See That: - Jesus "Knew What Was In Man!" (2:25)
- And So He Knew How:

- True Depravity:

- To Reach Them!
 - With Just The Power:
 - Of His Words!
- Of Course We Already Know:
 - The Effect Of These Words:
 - On Those Men!
 - 8:9a "And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last!"
- The Words Of Jesus Are:
 - The Very Words Of God!
 - And As Such They Are:
 - "Quick And Powerful, And Sharper Than Any Twoedged Sword, Piercing Even To The Dividing Asunder Of Soul And Spirit, And Of The Joints And Marrow, And Is A Discerner Of The Thoughts And Intents Of The Heart!" (Hebrews 4:12)
- So With Just A Single Statement!
 - Even A Single Sentence:
 - Jesus Struck His Own Blow:
 - With A Word More Powerful:
 - Than A Stone!
 - So That He Made The:
 - Hard Hearts Of Those Harsh Men:
 - To Melt Within Them:
 - As They Considered Their Own Sins Against God! Perhaps Even Sins:
 - Not Unlike The Woman's!
- But One Of The Saddest Things:
 - In This Passage Is That:
 - Instead Of Staying There:
 - With The One Who Wounded Their Conscience With His Word!
 - To Find Help & Healing!
 - What Did They Do Instead?
 - They "Went Out One By One!"
- Instead Of Responding:
 - In Repentance!
 - They Removed Themselves From:
 - The Source Of Their Discomfort!
 - Don't Make The Same Mistake!
- But There's Something Else:
 - That Jesus Reveals In His Words!
 - And That Is His Own:
- True Dominion:
 - As The Lord & Judge:
 - Of Them All!
 - There Was Only One There In That Crowed:
 - Who Was Truly "Without Sin!"
 - And That Was Jesus!

- And Though He Was Qualified:
 - To Charge & Convict & Condemn:
 - That Woman:
 - For Her Sin & Guilt!
 - What Do We Find Instead?

- Jesus Not Just As:
 - Her Sovereign But Also:
 - As Her Savior!
 - The Only One Who Could Show Her:
 - "Grace And Truth!"
 - "Compassion Without Compromise!"
 - And So We Are Told In:
 - 8:9b "And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst!"
 - So There Were Probably Still Some Of The Crowd:
 - Surrounding Them:
 - To Witness What Happens Next!
 - But For Jesus & The Woman:
 - It Was As If:
 - Noone Else Was There! And:
 - There Was Nobody In The Way!
 - And So We See One More Time:
- * The Compassion Of Jesus Without Compromise In 8:10:
- 4. In His Tenderness!
 - "When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers?"
 - This Guilty Woman:
 - Experienced First Hand:
 - The Tenderness Of Jesus!
 - First Through:
 - His Focus On Her!
 - Jesus Set His Sights:
 - On Her & Her Alone!
 - As If They Were:
 - The Only Two:
 - In The Temple! In The City!
 - In The Country! In The World!
 - Jesus Looked Upon That Woman:
 - So That She Might Live!
 - But Then Not Only Did Jesus:
 - See Her He Then Spoke To Her:
 - And Granted:
 - His Forgiveness To Her!
 - In 8:10b-11a Jesus Continues "Hath no man condemned thee? / She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee!"
 - These Are Words Of:
 - Compassion & Forgiveness!
 - Which Only The Sovereign Savior Could Do!
 - Even The Religious Leaders Understood This! Luke 5:21:
 - "Who Can Forgive Sins, But God Alone?"
 - Though She Was Guilty Of Her Sin:
 - She Was No Longer Condemned:
 - For Her Sin!
 - Because Jesus Forgave Her!
 - And From That Time On:
 - She Was Reconciled With Jesus!
 - There Was "Nothing Between Her Soul And The Savior!"
 - But How Could Jesus Do This For Her?

- Because He Knew:
 - That She Belonged To Him!
- Because He Knew:
 - That Very Soon He Would:
 - Die On The Cross:
 - For Her Sin!
- Romans 8:34 "Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us!"
- Perhaps One Of The Reasons:
 - This Was Such A Controversial Passage:
 - In The Early Days Of The Church:
 - Is Because There Is No Mention Of The Woman's Faith & Belief:
 - In The Lord!
- Instead All We Have Is:
 - Jesus Granting Her Complete Forgiveness!
 - But Is There No Faith:
 - Expressed By This Woman?
 - When Jesus Was Dealing With:
 - The Consciences Of Her Accusers:
 - Was He Not Dealing:
 - With Hers As Well?
 - So That When All Of Her Accusers:
 - "Went Out One By One!"
 - Who Is The One Who Stayed?
 - The Woman!
 - Perhaps There Was More Going On In Her Heart:
 - When She Called Jesus "Lord!"
 - Then Just A Title Of Respect!
 - So Even Though We Are Not Told:
 - That The Woman Believed In Jesus:
 - We Do See Next:
- His Freedom For Her!
 - "Go, And Sin No More!"
 - Jesus Made That Poor Sinner Free!
 - And From That Point On:
 - She Was "Free Indeed!" (8:36)
 - She Was Given:
 - A Clean Heart!
 - A Clear Slate! And:
 - A Current Opportunity:
 - Pursue After Holiness & Righteousness! Which She Could Never To Before!
 - She Was Now Free:
 - To Be Faithful:
 - To The Lord!

Conclusion:

- 1. And So All Through This Remarkable Passage:
 - We See The Compassion Of Jesus:
 - On Full Display But Without:
 - Any Compromise!
 - Again Jesus Is Full Of:
 - "Grace And Truth!"
- 2. But We Can Also See From These Verses:
 - What Jesus Can Do For Every Sinner:
 - Through The Gospel!
 - And What Jesus Can Do For You!
 - Just Like That Woman:

- We All Stand Accused:
 - Before God!
 - The Law Of God Stands Witness Against Us As Well As:
 - The Devil Himself!
- But Also Just Like That Woman:
 - The Accusations Against Us Are All True!
 - We Are All Guilty:
 - Of Unspeakable Crimes & Sins Against God!
 - Romans 3:10 "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one!"
 - And Because Of Your Sin & Guilt:
 - You Too Deserve The Punishment And Price:
 - For Your Sin Death!
 - Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death!"
- And Even More Just Like That Woman:
 - You Will Appear One Day:
 - Before The Lord Jesus:
 - To Give An Account For:
 - Your Life & Sins Against Him!
 - Hebrews 9:27 It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment!"
- But If Jesus Has Set His Sights On You:
 - To Focus His Grace On You!
 - To Forgive You:
 - On The Basis Of His Death & Condemnation:
 - In Your Place!
 - And To Free You:
 - From Your Life Of Rebellion & Sin!
 - Then All You Must Do:
 - To Receive All That Jesus Came To Give:
 - Is Believe In Him!
 - And Then You Too Can:
 - "Go, And Sin No More!" And:
 - Live In Freedom To Be Faithful:
 - To The Lord!
- 3. Because When You Experience:
 - The Compassion Of Jesus:
 - Without Compromise Through The Gospel:
 - It Is A New Day!
 - For You To Serve Him!
 - Because As Jesus Will Say:
 - In The Very Next Verse:
 - 8:12 "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life!"

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