

PASTOR'S
PICKS, V

WHAT'S LOVE

GOT TO DO WITH IT?

JOHN 8:2-11

A SERMON BY
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SUNDAY,
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8AM & 11AM



SCAN FOR PHJW
SERMON NOTES



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Preacher: Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley

Series Title: Pastor's Picks: Part 5

Sermon Title: *What's Love Got to Do With It?*

Scripture: John 8:2-11 (NIV)

At dawn, he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" 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. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. 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. Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, Sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

SERMON SUMMARY:

Pastor Wesley invites us to consider the contours of Jesus' radical transformative love through the lens of the woman in John 8.

This sermon begins by reminding us of the Great Commandment. While we are to love God and our neighbors as ourselves because human love is imperfect, Jesus offers us a new commandment in the 13th Chapter of the Gospel of John. This new standard of love calls us to love others as Jesus loves us.

This type of love is NOT displayed in the exchange between the Pharisees and the woman caught in adultery. The Pharisees seek to use the woman to make a political statement and to trap Jesus. But the Savior does not fall prey to their manipulation; instead, he exemplifies the shape of radical transformative love by covering and correcting our sister while exposing the hypocrisy of the Pharisees.

The contemporary church has much to learn from the way Jesus loves. May we not only learn it but also live it as we seek to love those we see, as we love the God we have not seen (1 John 4:20).

KEY POINTS:

The radical transformative love of Jesus calls us to love God and our neighbors as ourselves. However, it does not end there. The radical transformative love of Jesus also calls us to live in such a way that:

1. Our definition of what it means to love others and our capacity to do so is constantly growing.
2. Our actions must be radical or transformative when exemplifying love to others even if our reputation, privilege, or power is on the line.
3. We must protect those we have similarities and differences with alike.
4. We must be cautious about blind allegiance to those positions, candidates, or political parties with "rocks in their hands."
5. We refuse to judge, expose, or elevate others' sins because we are aware of our sins.
6. Does not seek to follow up on others but pray for them and allow all correction to happen in the space between the person and their Savior.

PASTOR'S SLIDES (QR CODE):

Please scan the QR code on the cover to gain access to this week's slides.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU:

1. The title of today's sermon is taken from a hit song by one of the greatest artists to ever grace a stage, the late Tina Turner. Name one of your favorite love songs and when it came into your life.

2. We learn in this sermon that love is the primary principle in Jesus' life. What is the primary principle in your life? Please give an example.
3. Jesus not only preached about love, but He practiced a radical and transformative love that He wants us to practice too. In John 13:34, He said, "A new commandment I give you, love one another as I have loved you." What love language do you use the most (Acts of service; Receiving gifts; Quality time, Words of affirmation, Physical touch)? In what ways would you like to show more love? How would you like the church to show more love?

INTO THE BIBLE QUESTIONS:

1. Pastor Wesley referenced a litany of scriptures associated with the commandment to love (i.e. Proverbs 12:12, Leviticus 19:18, etc.). Is there any "love scripture" that's most impactful and memorable to you? Which scripture and why?
2. In today's sermon, there was a brief example of the parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11-32, What are the key experiences that connect the son in this story to the woman caught in adultery. Specifically, how is the theme of love exemplified in both of these narratives?

LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. Pastor Wesley says our definition of what it means to love others and our capacity to do so should constantly evolve. How has your ability to love matured over the years? In what areas are you still working?

2. In the sermon we learned that it is not love unless there is something on the line, something risked. What have you risked because of your love of the gospel, for Jesus?

3. Pastor Wesley said Jesus has more in common with the Pharisees than the woman caught in adultery, but yet he protected her against them. Have you ever been part of a group that you believed was unjustly and publicly criticizing or judging a person or another group? Please describe that situation and share how you handled it?

“CAN I PUSH IT?” QUESTIONS:

1. Pastor Wesley says that one of the great lies of the church is that we love God *as* we love our brothers and sisters. What other lies do you believe the church tells? How has this absence of truth impacted you? What truth do you need the church to tell?

2. This sermon points out that if the Pharisees cared about the woman they would have assisted her and not exposed her. The contemporary church seems too willing to expose in lieu of assisting. If you could speak to the Church Universal about new ways to serve marginalized and oppressed communities, what would your message be, and to whom would you direct it?

3. Any use of scripture that comes with a “rock in our hand” is a poor use of scripture. What are ways you have seen scripture used to hurt others? How might this sermon transform your actions and your words for situations like this in the future?

FOR INDIVIDUAL OR VILLAGE STUDY

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

1. As a parent or a spouse, can you recall any occasions where you've had to exhibit an "agape love" to your child or spouse? If so, what did you learn about yourself after dealing with that situation that's instilled in your spirit to this day?
2. Why do you think many individuals tend to use "love" as an abstract noun rather than recognizing it as an action verb?
3. We learn in this sermon that love is a noun and a verb. We love in deeds, not just in words. Is there a story of someone who loved you through their deeds, even though they did not have to do so? How did those deeds impact you?
4. Pastor told the story of the woman the Pharisees wanted Jesus to publicly punish/condemn because she was caught in adultery. Instead, Jesus quietly stopped the Pharisees from attacking her, and then Jesus privately counseled the woman to stop sinning. Give some modern examples of people being subjected to public humiliation/bullying by those in authority (in the news, in schools, in Congress, in the workplace, in political campaigns, in reality TV shows, in social media, or in social settings). Discuss ways believers can intervene to protect and counsel people when they are being publicly humiliated/bullied. Does not intervening make us complicit?
5. The scene of Jesus writing in the dirt has confounded theologians for centuries. While we have no definitive answer to what he wrote (although Pastor Wesley may just be right), using your Holy Ghost imagination what do you think he wrote.

ACTIVITY

1. Pastor Wesley used the lyrics to Billy Paul's "Me and Mrs. Jones" as an illustration in the sermon. Pick a secular love song that you can turn into a love song for Jesus. What changes as you transform the lyrics of this song from secular to sacred?

2. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 13 the ways to love from the disunity of the gentiles and the Jews. The letter of love was teaching them how to do it in the church. Take time to rewrite verses 4-7, and insert your name before each verse.

SPIRIT WORK:

1. Write a short note to Jesus, describing the ways in which you have experienced the love of the divine. Select three or four of those ways and seek to love those with whom you come in contact with this week. Note in your journal or in your time of prayer how this felt and what you learned.

2. Pastor Wesley notes that this is at least the sixth time he has preached this text. Please share a text to which you have returned and been able to mine new insight and understanding.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The eight different types of love, according to the ancient Greeks, are:

- Eros (sexual passion)
- Philia (deep friendship)
- Ludus (playful love)
- Agape (love for everyone)
- Pragma (long standing love)
- Philautia (love of the self)
- Storge (family love)
- Mania (obsessive love)

Video to Watch on Bible Project:
[Agape - Love](#)

Book to Read:

