

## When love come to town

HomeGroups@West

### Session 5

John 8:1-11

The woman caught  
in adultery



**Who were the personalities that day when love came to town?** First on the scene is Jesus. In prime position in the heart of the Temple courts and he is teaching anyone who wants to listen, and they are thronging to him. He is teaching with authority, with authenticity, his words are colourful, they are revealing, they go to the heart of the matter. He is revealing to his audience the truth about what God is like and what he requires and how he loves and his faithfulness. Then an angry crowd of religious characters burst onto the scene. They are the decent people who are outraged by the sin they have uncovered. They are following the letter of the law. You can't deny it, its there in black and white- written by Moses himself in Leviticus 20:10 "If a man commits adultery with another man's wife – with the wife of his neighbour – both the adulterer and the adulteress are to be put to death."

They drag the final personality with them. The guilty woman. The filthy adulteress. They don't quite fling her at Jesus' feet- but as good as!

**Try to stand in the shoes of the people in this scene.**

**1. What are your motivations? What is at stake in this encounter?**

**2. Why do you think that these religious people want to involve Jesus in the dispensing of justice?**

Is it possible that we find ourselves flinging people who offend us at God's feet, and hoping to see them judged and condemned by him!



**When we read scripture, it typically holds up a mirror to expose the problem with our own hearts rather than exposing the failure of others.**

**3. What do you think Jesus was writing when he bent down and wrote in the dust that day?**

The leaders keep on badgering Jesus- accusing question after question! Until Jesus stands up and says: *‘Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.’*



**4. Is Jesus saying: “adultery doesn’t matter”, if not- what is he saying?**

There is a blueprint for human relationships that God has instituted for the benefit of all people. This is increasingly challenged by modern social norms. We can be dismayed by what we observe and hear, but how should we respond?

**5. In light of this passage, how should we respond to sexual sin that we identify in others? How should we be responding to societal changes such as the lobby for equality of same-sex marriage?**



Many people have been badly damaged by the harsh words and actions of Church Goers.

**6. How can firm belief be matched to grace?**

It is easy to harbor attitudes that in a casual moment allow us to throw in a comment of judgment, a harsh word, a dressed up line of condemnation in the form of a joke. This is not the heart of Jesus- this is anti-Jesus- this is anti-Christ.

**Brothers and sisters- if you love him, you are his fragrance in this world- a sweet smelling offering- we are never called to be a harsh voice of condemnation.**

**Give thanks that Jesus has paid the terrible price for sin. Take time to pray for yourselves, for the spirit of The Lord to be at work in our hearts- shaping his attitude of Grace. Pray for people who have been damaged by harsh judgement of Christians.**

