

LSE 6-7-2020

We are often far too quick to condemn those that we can't relate to or those with whom we disagree. Is that really what Christianity is about?

John 8:2-11

² Early in the morning he returned to the temple. All the people gathered around him, and he sat down and taught them. ³ The legal experts and Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery. Placing her in the center of the group, ⁴ they said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of committing adultery. ⁵ In the Law, Moses commanded us to stone women like this. What do you say?" ⁶ They said this to test him, because they wanted a reason to bring an accusation against him. Jesus bent down and wrote on the ground with his finger.

⁷ They continued to question him, so he stood up and replied, "Whoever hasn't sinned should throw the first stone." ⁸ Bending down again, he wrote on the ground. ⁹ Those who heard him went away, one by one, beginning with the elders. Finally, only Jesus and the woman were left in the middle of the crowd.

¹⁰ Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Is there no one to condemn you?"

¹¹ She said, "No one, sir."

Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on, don't sin anymore."

If we're honest about our own lives, we have no ground to stand on to condemn or criticize others. We have all sinned. We should all work to have the same attitude Paul expressed in 1 Timothy 1:15-16:

¹⁵ It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. ¹⁶ Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.

How did Jesus save sinners? By dying on a cross to pay the penalty for the sins of the whole world, and coming back to life on the third day. He defeated sin. He defeated death. We're here to remember and celebrate that this morning.

Wonderful Father, thankyou for planning from the beginning of creation to redeem us and reconcile us to Yourself. Thankyou that Jesus satisfied the due penalty for our sins with His death on the cross. Lord, please bless the bread and juice that remind us of Jesus' physical body and blood, and how He died for us. Thankyou for demonstrating through Jesus Your power over even death. Help us to keep these things in mind not only now, but each day we live. In Jesus' precious name we pray, amen.