

John 8:2-11

Jesus Loves Messy People

How do you do with Messy?

A) Messy places – do they drive you crazy! – Can't function until -all clean.

B) How about Messy people – unorganized – room is a mess – desk is a mess

1) They know where everything is – but you can't even meet in their office – **fingers on chalk board**

C) How do you do in situations that are a mess?

1) Drama – chaos – is it overwhelming to you ?

Today we are going to see how Jesus isn't afraid of messy situations – How He loves messy people.

A) I am speaking primarily about people's lives that have been messed up by sin.

B) In our text today John 8 we are going to see Jesus deal with a woman who messed up her life –

1) by committing the sin of adultery

C) In this story we will see the heart of Jesus toward those who are involved in sexual sin

1) Who Does Jesus love? Sexually active people
Too scandalous – **wrong message – scrolling**

D) Reached out to a friend pastors in Vegas sin city

1) Very evangelistic - Messy People

So I figured – better listen to the guy who is living in the middle of it all.

A) Let's consider this story

2 Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them. 3 Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, 4 they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, **in the very act**. 5 Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?" 6 This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear.

7 So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first." 8 And

again He stooped down and wrote on the ground.

9 Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. 10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?" 11 She said, "No one, Lord."

And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."

Scene: It is the day after the feast of Tabernacles

A) 8 day feast – children of Israel – **camp in tents** to commemorate 40 years in the wilderness

B) Time of remembering -how God led them with a cloud by day – pillar fire by night

1) Provided Manna and quail to eat
Water from a rock

C) Everyday as part of the ceremony the priest would bring a pitcher of water to the temple MT

1) Pour it on the altar – reminder – God miraculous provision of water in the desert – people celebrate

D) But on the 8th day they bring an empty pitcher up to the mount – tip it over - Nothing comes out

1) – and it is a silent and solemn moment – still waiting for messiah

E) When the messiah comes he will once again bring that Divine refreshment to Israel

Well at the solemn silent moment on the 8th day of the feast – Jesus stands cried out – for everyone hear

A) V.37 "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

B) It was a bold declaration on the part of Jesus that he was the messiah they had been waiting for!

C) People's reaction -

40 Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, "Truly this is the Prophet." 41 Others said, "This is the Christ."

The words that Jesus cried out that day weren't just a bold declaration that he was the Messiah

A) But also a Beautiful declaration that HE is the only one who can **quench the spiritual thirst in hearts**

B) If ANYONE thirsts? –Yes everyone –we all have a Void – Jesus says I have come to quench that thirst

C) The story before us here in John 8 is the story of a woman trying to quench her thirst for love
1) IN the wrong way – **looking for love in all...places**

D) Jesus is going to reveal to her what real love looks like and where real love is found

That is the scene: The next day people come to hear more from Jesus – teaching – temple courtyard

A) That is when his teaching is interrupted when the religious leaders bring this Woman before him

B) Outline: The Sinful woman, The Scheming accusers, The Sympathetic savior

The Sinful woman:

A) V.4 emphasis **Caught in the very act of Adultery**

B) In my mind I picture her wrapped only in the bed sheet from the bed she was sinning in.

C) Standing there - Shame and embarrassment written all over her face!

D) She is someone's daughter/ maybe someone's wife / Maybe even someone's mother

E) Can you imagine the Shame – the guilt as everyone is staring at her standing there – exposed.
1) Imagine the Shame the guilt – the stairs

Now it is interesting that the Bible doesn't tell us her name -

A) Reason: God was not interested in embarrassing her- He is interested in saving her.

B) Note this: **Jesus doesn't run from her mess!**

1) He leans into the mess – He gets down in the dirt – to bring freedom to her weary soul.

C) So first we have this woman who has made a mess of her life – by her sin.

#2 The Scheming accusers V.4 again

“Teacher, this woman **was caught in adultery, in the very act.** 5 Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?”

6 This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him

A) Caught in the very act – Makes me wonder what happened the night before.

B) And if she was really caught in the very act – where was the DUDE?

C) The scriptures were clear regarding adultery in Duet. 22

1) when adultery was discovered – both parties – the man and woman – were to be punished.

V.6 gives us some insight into what was going on here – this was a trap.

A) Though guilty this woman was a part of a pharisaical sting

B) She was a pawn in a bigger game – **the bait** to catch a bigger fish

C) Many Bible scholars suggest – the reason the man wasn't brought forth - **he was a friend of their**

1) They had set this woman up in order to use her to trap Jesus.

D) So they come bearing the weight and authority of the Law of Moses – 7th commandment... adultery

It was considered one of the three biggies to the Jewish people 2,000 years ago.

A) Idolatry, murder, and adultery were considered the three biggies by the people of Israel

B) All punishable by death according to the law of God ! Spelled out in Lev 20 and Deut. 22

Now There is no exact wording as to how that form of capital punishment should be carried out.

A) But according to the Mishnah the man made Jewish commentary on the law of God

B) the adulterers were to be placed knee deep in a box of manure.

1) Perhaps this was the origin of the expression "knee deep in trouble

C)After being placed in the box of manure the victims were pelted with stones – until they died

D)After the execution a tree was planted in the box of manure to stand in the city as a testimony to the seriousness of adultery.

E)SO, a town with a lot of trees would be considered a "shady place"... in more ways than one!

So the Pharisees come armed the Law of Moses - Moses said she should be stone – what do you say?

A)The trap was set - see if Jesus refused to execute the proper punishment the Religious leaders would label Him as being permissive – **soft on sin.**

B)They would say –“ Jesus really doesn’t obey the Bible and follow the law of Moses.”

1)Therefore he cannot be the Messiah

C)On the other hand, If Jesus were to say yes, I agree with Moses and the Bible, stone her,

1)that would've instantly ruined His reputation as being the friend of sinners.

D)What would Jesus do?

The Sympathetic Savior

But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, **as though He did not hear.** {Doodling in the dirt 7 So when they continued asking Him,

A)Idea is They start pushing Jesus for a response.

B) These men proud and presumptuous. - They think that they have him trapped -

He raised Himself up and said to them, **“He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.”**

C)Amazing response.

1)It made the issue a spiritual rather than a legal issue.

Jesus is not arguing about the Mosaic Law, He's not arguing about the seventh commandment,

A)He's not arguing about Roman versus Jewish justice.

B)He is saying you lack the qualifications to be her judge and her executioner.

1)There is one qualification that you need. **If you want to do this, you have to be without sin.**

C)See there's only one person qualified in that group to do that and to be that and who's that? Jesus.

1)All of them are disqualified.

And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground.”

Of course, the intriguing question is, "what did He write?"

A)We're not told what Jesus wrote, but there's a clue imbedded in the original text.

B)The Greek word usually translated “wrote” is “*grapho*”, from which we get our word “*graphic*”.

C)But John adds a prefix to the word He uses here - the prefix “*kata*” which means “*against or in opposition to*” - “*katagrapho*” means **“to write against”.**

Note the effect of what he wrote: V.9 Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last.

A)This reaction by each one of the scheming accusers has led some Bible teacher to assume – names/ sins

B)Whatever Jesus wrote, It was a message that awoke the conscience of the Pharisees
1)and convicted them of their own sin.

C)So One by one they dropped their rocks and left

Note 4 things about our sympathetic savior – in how he deals with this woman. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. 10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman.

A)Notice that phrase V.10 **he saw no one but the woman.** – not playing to the crowd – he saw her

B)1st thing to note is Jesus **is dealing with her on a personal level** – not addressing the crowd.

C)He is zeroed in on the ONE – this one messy life – this life messed up by sin.

1) Jesus is the Good shepherd who leaves the 99 to go after the one

D) No life is insignificant to him – all important
1) he saw only her

The 2nd thing I want you to note is that Jesus treats her with respect - He said to her, “Woman Gune –

A) What Jesus called his mom – term of affection and endearment., **dear woman**

B) He doesn't see an adulterer – he sees a woman who has made a mess of her life – because of her sin

C) He speaks to her tenderly – he doesn't use condemning language – Slut or whore – Gune
1) You have worth and value – you are special in the eyes of God

D) So Jesus said where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?”

E) Verse 11 records the woman's simple, joyous reply, **"No one, Lord."**

3rd things Jesus does: He speaks a word of grace to her And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you;

A) Jesus summarized His mission on earth in John 12:47, **"I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world."**

B) Jesus doesn't need to condemn us – our conscience condemns us of our sin

C) You know why we deal with feelings of guilt and shame? we feel guilty because we are guilty

This woman knew she was guilty –

A) The guilt and shame were written all over her face.

B) But Jesus speaks a word of grace to her - **“Neither do I condemn you;**

C) Not cheap grace – Jesus knew what he was about to do so her sin could be forgiven – Cross

D) He was going to take her sin – her guilt and shame upon himself –

1) It would be that long from here – Jesus take her punishment and yours mine – Cross

4th Jesus gives her a wonderful invitation go and sin no more.”

A) Tone: Not threatening teeth clinched – smile gentle

B) Go and sin no more – You don't have to live like that anymore.

C) You can be free – you can be fulfilled – there is a better way to live

D) The invitation is clear – walking with Jesus results in being set free from walking in sin
1) Living in Darkness

The rest of the passage makes this even more clear

¹² Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He **who follows Me** shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

³¹ Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

Sin in every form results in bondage to that sin

A) Jesus came to set us free from sin to live in relationship with God

B) Abide – stay connected to – live by the word of God – we get our direction from –
1) Not culture – not opinion – not feelings

C) And to put an explanation point on what he is declaring here – Jesus said in

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. ³⁵ And a slave does not abide in the house forever, *but* a son abides forever. ³⁶ Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

D) Here is the CHOICE that Jesus gives to every man woman living in sin – You can be a slave to sin
1) Or you can be a Son – a daughter

Are you in bondage to sin today? Jesus would say to you – You can go and sin no more

A) You can be free – come to me – abide in me – allow my word to abide in you.

B) He who the son sets free is free indeed!

C) Jesus gives this sinful woman and every other sinful man or woman like her,

1) **an opportunity to start over.**

D) This is an amazing story that shows very clearly how Jesus loves messy people –

1) People who have made a mess of their lives because of their sin.

Now I am going to make you a bit uncomfortable right now – { 2 weeks in a row – come on

A) What if this woman was caught in the very act – with another woman? Talking Lesbianism

B) Would it have read differently? Would Jesus have reacted differently?

C) It is an interesting question- two different reactions

On the one side: You have those who are pro Gay –

A) No way – Jesus would call that a sin – not even an issue

B) **On the other side** – those who way say – not only would he call it a sin – but he wouldn't forgive her

1) **Homosexuality is the worst of all sins**

C) I don't mean to make anyone uncomfortable in talking about this subject – but we need to talk....

Homosexuality the hot a topic of our day.

A) It's the CAUSE of the day in our culture,

B) It is put before us in TV shows, movies, - the message - this the norm.

C) In our Public schools it is being written into elementary school curriculum

D) It is a major talking point of politicians in every political cycle.

E) Recent Gallup poll 2022 - 7.1% of the American population identifies as LGBTQ

1) 21% of Gen Z's identify as LGBTQ

There is a massive effort to redefine and reclassify what is traditionally been viewed as homosexuality.

A) And the redefinition is, "It's not a sin, it's a very, very acceptable and normal lifestyle;

B) Acceptable TV programs, movies – gay characters that are being written into the script

C) **You need to see this as normal and acceptable in fact, even a noble lifestyle.**

Because, they say- the person who is discovering this about himself or herself is simply living in a more honest way. Authentic lifestyle

A) They are living as God has made him or her.

B) And just like you would never tell a left-handed person to become a right-handed person,

C) Why would tell somebody who has a leaning in one way toward their sexual identity to be anything but that."

As Christ followers

A) Our world view and our view of morality and sexuality has to be shaped by the Bible

B) That brings us back to my original question: If She was caught in the very act with a woman-

C) Would Jesus have dealt with her differently ?

Would Jesus have called that sin?

A) Yes he would have - Jesus is always true to scripture –

B) And the scriptures are clear that Homosexuality is a sin

C) The Bible doesn't talk about Homosexuality very much – only 7 places

D) Genesis 19; Leviticus 18 and 20; Judges, 19; Romans, 1; 1 Corinthians, 6; and 1 Timothy 1

D) And in every single one of those passages it is mentioned as a sin

1) and that it is contrary to God's plan and God's design for human sexuality

The Punishment was the same: Leviticus 20:13 ¹³ If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood *shall be* upon them.

A) So in OT sin punishable by death just like adultery

B) Addressed to men – but the same principle would apply to a woman

1) Romans 1 woman – vile passions – unnatural

C) Homosexuality was Prevalent Roman empire

D) Paul list Homosexuality in a list of things he says that those who practice such things not inherit....

⁹ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites. – 1 Corinthians 6:9

E) Why does Paul include Idolatry in that group of sexual sins?

Sexual immorality in any fashion – gay or straight is the worship of self –

A) Choosing my way over God's way! –

B) It is saying I think I know what will best fulfill me

1) I know better than God –

C) Idolatry in its simplest form is the worship of self

Paul said: Sexual sin it is different than any other sin

A) Those who sin sexual manner – sin against their own bodies

B) Sin against themselves – it distorts who God created them to be –

C) It distorts how he designed them to function – it gives away a part of themselves not get back

Think of it this way: You can try and use a butter Knife as a screw driver –

A) Sometimes it works – it does the job – it meets the need.

B) But the butter knife was not meant to be a screw driver – eventually not going to work

1) It gets scratched and twisted and bent – eventually it gets discarded –

C) In a similar way that is what happens to our bodies when we engage in sex – outside of God's plan

God says: I made sex – I want you to enjoy it – but it is to be enjoyed in one place – Marriage

A) We need to reclaim that church – **the most gratifying sex is not forbidden sex –**

B) It is sex in the marriage bed - Jesus made it very clear – the Biblical view of marriage

1) is between one man and one woman Matthew 19:4

C) Anything else is outside of the design for sex that God has made our bodies for.

So of course Jesus would have called sin -even if she was another woman

A) But that leads us to consider the 2nd question –

B) Would Jesus have still shown her grace and kindness

1) Answer is absolutely! - Here is why I say that

C) When we look at the woman in our story Jesus isn't dealing with her sexual preference

D) Apparently she had a preference for married men

E) He is not dealing with **her preference** he is dealing with **her practice** - That was the issue

1) That was the sin that she committed.

Now, this is important, because instead of condemning her as a sexual being,

A) What Jesus is doing is denouncing **the way** in which she chose to express her sexuality---

B) The way she was choosing to express her sexuality was outside of the plan that God had for her

1) It was outside of the design that God intended for sexual beings to function and enjoy sex.

C)The answer would be the same if she tried to express her sexuality with another woman

Jesus heart would be the same –

A)He would still treat her with respect and value— seeing her as a person.

B)who is trying to quench her thirst for love in the wrong way.

1)Jesus wouldn't see a lesbian he would see a woman – trying to fulfill her need outside of God's plan

C)See Jesus hates sin – but he loves sinners

He hates adultery for damage it does - but he loves the woman caught in adultery

A)He hates prostitution – he loves the prostitute

B)He hates sexual immorality – but he loves the person who is involved in it

C)He hates Homosexuality – but he loves the Homosexual

Same treat her with respect – and he would offer her the same grace and kindness

A)**Neither do I condemn you –**

B)He knows like I said before – we are constantly dealing with the sin and shame and guilt of our sin

C)Any time we are living outside of the will and plan of God

D)We try and suppress the guilt and shame – deny it and redefine it

E)But deep down it is always there!

One reason according to a 2021 report by the Center of disease control and prevention

A)Gay and bisexual youths are 5 times as likely to have suicidal thoughts that heterosexual counterparts

B)Which is interesting – even though homosexuality is becoming more accepted in culture

1)Suicides among gay people are on the rise

C)Jesus said in John 10:10 Satan is a thief and a robbery – kill rob and destroy

1)That is his end game

D)But Jesus said – I have come that you might have life and that more abundantly

1)His heart for everyone no matter their sexual preference

So Jesus would have treated her the same as a person – treated her with respect – She is valuable to God

A)He would have spoken the same gracious words – I don't condemn you – not my purpose

B)And he would have given her the same invitation: **Go and sin no more –**

1)You don't Have to live that way. –

Jesus is not put off by our sin – not repulsed -He doesn't run from our sin

A)He leans in to us – because he loves us – he wants to satisfy the thirst for love in our hearts

B)He provides a way and the power for us to walk in the light – God's design

1)Instead of in darkness – the devils – plan

C)As we close I need to say this: Listen church

We need to be very careful that we don't make the assumption – that this sin is out there

A)That is the world's problem

B)The world has brought it to light – big time

C)But it has always been a problem in the church

There are young people in this church – struggling with same sex attraction.

A)Conversations with little boys and little girls – great Christian families

B)I don't know why but I am same sex attraction – I like boys or I like girls

C)I can't explain that – except to say that it is just another evidence of our fallen sinful nature

D)All of us have a propensity to sin in different ways

1)All of us have attractions that could get us in trouble – the key is don't act on those attraction

Same sex attraction is real – but it is not a sin – it only becomes a sin when it is acted on.

A) In the same way - A married man/woman can have an attraction toward someone other than spouse

B) The attraction is not the sin – the sin occurs when you start fantasizing about it – flirting

1) The sin occurs when you act on it

C) There are lots of people in the Big C church today who struggle with same sex attraction

D) Jesus invitation to you is this – Abide in me – follow me – believe in me

1) I have your best interest at heart

I know Christian people today who struggle with same sex attraction – living vibrant lives

A) Celibate lives –

B) Here is why – their lives are being so satisfied by the love of Jesus –

1) they are not looking for satisfaction in someone else

C) His heart for all of us – Find satisfaction in me

And I know others who had same sex attraction or who came out of a gay lifestyle

A) Ended up falling in love with a person of the opposite sex – radically fulfilled in that

B) Psalm 37:4 Delight yourself in the Lord – he will give you the desires of your heart

C) He will mold your desires after his desire – Means He can change your attraction –

D) But even if he doesn't – Know this he loves you and he can and will fulfill you if you let him.

1) You calling – Abide in him – let him satisfy your thirst for love

Lastly: What do we do with this information – how do we apply this story

A) 1st We need to remember that we ourselves are not without sin.

B) If we are going to be repulsed by sin – we need to be repulsed by the sin in our own lives

C) Leave the judging of others to Jesus our just judge

But that doesn't mean that we don't make a stand for righteousness – we absolutely must do that

A) We need to protest when agendas and ideologies are being introduced into school curriculum

B) We have need to make a stand – we need to protect children

C) We need people on School boards who will stand up and fight for what is right.

D) We need to vote people into office who will make a stand – for righteousness – rightness

But we need wisdom and grace on how to make a stand the right way!

A) We need to learn from Jesus on how to differentiate the act from the person doing the act

B) We need to see the person – show respect and kindness to the person

This is a person that Jesus loves – that Jesus died for

A) This is a person who is thirsty for Love and Jesus wants to quench that thirst once and for all!

B) Our friendship with that person might be the first step in giving Jesus the opportunity to work in their lives

C) This part of our culture isn't going away friends

1) How can we be salt and LIGHT how can we bring the gospel to speak into and rescue hearts

Lord help us!