



CHECK OUT WHAT
CATECHISM OF THE
CATHOLIC CHURCH
SAYS ABOUT JESUS
AND THE LAW
CCC 574 - 591

JOHN 8:1-11



Cast the first Stone?

Help me, O Lord, that my eyes may be merciful, so that I may never suspect or judge from appearances, but look for what is beautiful in my neighbours' souls and come to their rescue.
St Faustina

THINK ABOUT IT!

What's the difference between using a magnifying glass and a mirror?



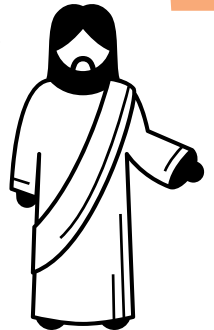
Where is the danger in using a magnifying glass when looking at the faults of others?



A LITTLE BIBLICAL CONTEXT: JESUS AND THE PHARISEES



Jesus' actions and teaching has already angered the Pharisees on numerous occasions before this point; He even called them "*whitewashed tombs*"! At this point, the Pharisees are making plans for Jesus' arrest and seeking his death. In John 7:37-38, Jesus was teaching in the Temple area, saying: "*Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.*" The scribes and Pharisees are plotting to arrest Jesus and they return in John Chapter 8 to gather more evidence against Jesus by posing a question intended to trap Jesus.



NOW WATCH: "CAST THE FIRST STONE - THE WOMAN CAUGHT IN ADULTERY | STORY VAULT (IBELIEVEBIBLE)"

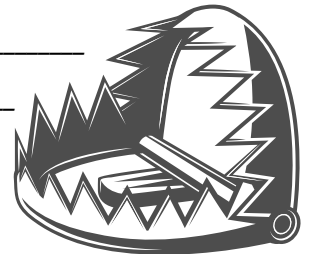


• What was the devious plan of the Pharisees that day?

If Jesus condemned the woman, he would look _____

If Jesus excused the woman's sins, he would violate _____

- One of the reasons this story is remembered is how Jesus finds a way to _____ their ploy and show _____ to the accused woman.



- The Pharisees quoted the Law of Moses, saying she should be stoned to death for being caught in the act of adultery. Why were they only partially right? What does Deuteronomy 22:23-29 actually state?

- If Jesus condemned the woman, why would He also get into trouble with the Romans?



- What was Jesus' initial response?

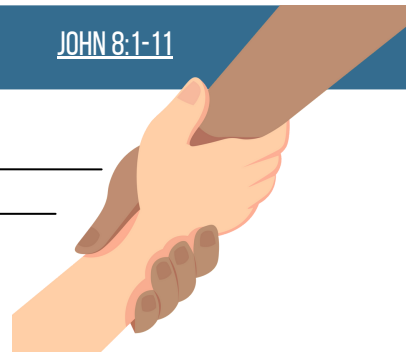
- How does Jeremiah 17:13 relate to these events? "*Lord, you are the hope of Israel; all who forsake you will be put to shame. Those who turn away from you will be written in the dust because they have forsaken the Lord, the spring of living water.*"

CAST THE FIRST STONE?

JOHN 8:1-11

- What did Jesus ask the Pharisees to do, and how did they respond?

- What did Jesus say to the woman caught in adultery?



Now Read John 8:1-11



Can you imagine what it must have been like for the woman caught in adultery to be dragged in front of the crowd like that, and used in a ploy to try to destroy Jesus? The Pharisees did not care about her brokenness, or her need for forgiveness; all they wanted was to use the Law to trap Jesus. We don't know what words Jesus wrote in the dust that day - the only known written words of Jesus. But His message for the Pharisees is one for us too: Am I quick to judge others, to condemn them, even when I cannot know their hearts? Am I blind to my own faults? Only God knows our hearts. Jesus knew the woman's heart and her need for mercy and forgiveness. He did not condemn her but offered her life and grace, and the way to stay in that grace: "*Go and sin no more!*" He knew the hearts of the Pharisees too, and He would not play their game: using the Law to condemn and trap, rather than the Law being used to draw others closer to God, as it had been originally intended. Let's make sure we focus on our interior lives, and not just the exterior: "*man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.*" (1 Samuel 16:7)



MISSION!

THIS WEEK IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO HOLD A MIRROR UP TO OURSELVES RATHER THAN A MAGNIFYING GLASS TO EVERYONE ELSE! THE FIRST THING WE SHOULD HOPEFULLY SEE IS A SON/DAUGHTER OF GOD, CREATED IN HIS IMAGE AND LIKENESS, AND LOVED ETERNALLY. ARE THERE FLAWS THERE THAT NEED CHANGING? NOT EXTERIOR ONES, BUT THE REALLY IMPORTANT ONES: HOW DO I TREAT OTHERS? HOW IS MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?



PRAYER TIME!

Help me, O Lord, that my eyes may be merciful, so that I may never suspect or judge from appearances, but look for what is beautiful in my neighbours' souls and come to their rescue. Help me, that my ears may be merciful, so that I may give heed to my neighbours' needs and not be indifferent to their pains and moanings. Help me, O Lord, that my tongue may be merciful, so that I should never speak negatively of my neighbour, but have a word of comfort and forgiveness for all. Help me, O Lord, that my hands may be merciful and filled with good deeds, so that I may do only good to my neighbours and take upon myself the more difficult and toilsome tasks. Help me, O Lord, that my feet may be merciful, so that I may hurry to assist my neighbour, overcoming my own fatigue and weariness. My true rest is in the service of my neighbour. Help me, O Lord, that my heart may be merciful so that I myself may feel all the sufferings of my neighbour. (...)
May Your mercy, O Lord, rest upon me" (Diary of St Faustina #163)



CREATE A PLAYLIST TO LISTEN TO AS YOU REFLECT ON MERCY THIS WEEK

- How Can It Be - Lauren Daigle
- Go and Sin No More - Rebecca St James
- Make Me Over - Natalie Grant
- From the Inside Out - Hillsong Worship
- What Love Really Means - JJ Heller
- Mercy - Bethel
- I Belong - Kathryn Scott
- Mercy - Matt Redman



Click the links for the YouTube videos to listen to some suggestions!



Watch this powerful scene from *The Passion of the Christ (Mary Magdalene)*



Are you a Pharisee? *Ascension Presents*





A Prayer to be Merciful

SPEND TIME SLOWLY PRAYING AND REFLECTING ON THE WORDS OF ST FAUSTINA

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