

Glad When We See God's Grace **John 8:1-11**

Introduction:

1. The text before us is all about accusation, illicit sexual behavior, pride, prejudice, temptation, and extreme drama. All the things that movies and TV shows are about.
2. Let's read John 8:1-11. Not surprising, the Pharisees are in the "accuse and condemn" mode.
 - The Pharisees bring a woman to Christ who supposedly had committed adultery. They are not only eager to accuse and condemn her, but are hopeful they can use the occasion to accuse and condemn Christ also.
 - During the time of Christ, the Pharisees were the religious gestapo of Israel. Their life was consumed with accusing and condemning people.
3. It is so easy for Christians to become this way. We can become very cynical – ever watchful to find a flaw in others, a crack in their armor, or some sin and inconsistency. And then, we often become eager to pounce and condemn, acting as the judge and jury.
4. We can become very intolerant and caustic towards each other, but also towards those that don't know Christ. Christians can get the attitude, "I hope they get what is coming to them." They seem eager to have the lost judged and condemned by God. That, of course, reflects the heart of a Pharisee. We too can have a pharisaical attitude toward others.
5. But there is another way to live life. Instead of delighting in accusation and condemnation (like Satan and the Pharisees), we delight in mercy (like God).
Micah 7:18
 - God doesn't just forgive reluctantly; He **delights** in showing His grace, mercy, and forgiveness to others.
6. To me, one of the greatest examples in the Bible of a man who walked like God in this way was Barnabas. Barnabas, a Jew in the church at Jerusalem, heard that a bunch of heathen Gentiles had trusted in Christ. But what was his attitude?
Acts 11:23
7. What did he see? He saw idol-worshipping, heathen, sinful, Gentiles whose lives had been changed by the grace of Almighty God. Barnabas was glad! Glad when he saw grace. However, that was not the attitude of all the believers in the church at Jerusalem. Acts 11:1-3
8. As believers, we must be glad when we see the grace of God given to others. Why?

First, because we have been shown grace.

1. It is interesting – the Pharisees brought this woman to Jesus and acted as if it was because they were very zealous to keep Moses' law. vs. 1-5
 - What did the law of Moses say about the issue? Leviticus 20:10; Deuteronomy 22:22

- What was missing here? The guilty man!
 - Could it be that it was a set up? Could it be that they let the man go because he might have had some dirty laundry on them? We don't know the whole story, but Jesus did! I am not sure what He wrote on the ground, but I have a feeling He was letting them know that **He knew** the whole story. vs. 6
2. Because of the situation and the actions surrounding it, Jesus sought to bring their hypocrisy to the surface. vs. 7-9
 - They were **all** guilty of breaking Moses' law, and they knew it. Not a one of them was innocent. After they heard Christ's reasoning, they all hung their heads and left.
 3. Have you noticed, we love grace when it comes to **our** sins; but when it comes to others' sins, we want judgment and condemnation? This, of course, is sheer hypocrisy.
 4. We can't accept mercy and forgiveness for our sins and then desire condemnation for other people's sins. If **you** want grace, you must allow it for all. If we don't, our attitude and actions become very inconsistent and hypocritical.
 5. If anybody should understand grace and rejoice in grace being given to others, it is a believer. Ephesians 4:32

Second, because it reflects the character of our Father.

1. Earlier, in Micah 7:18, we read that God "*delighteth in mercy.*"
 - The word "*delighteth*" means that God is inclined towards it and is pleased with it."
 - What picture do you have of God? Is He in heaven angry and mad with a frown all the time? Does He love hurling darts at bad people? Is He reluctant and begrudging to forgive people when somebody turns in faith to Him?
2. According to the Bible, those are wrongful and inaccurate portrayals of the character of our God. The Bible depicts God as One who is grieved by sin, but absolutely delights in being able to show mercy and forgiveness to people. He is eager, ready, and pleased to show mercy. Exodus 34:6; Psalm 103:8; Luke 6:36; Romans 11:32
3. Paul pictures God as rich in mercy towards those who are lost in sin. Ephesians 2:2-5
4. Did you know that we are to reflect the character of our Father? Ephesians 4:32
5. How do I learn to be glad when I see God's grace given to others? Titus 3:1-5 has the answer. I remember the mercy God has shown **me**. God didn't save me based on my own merit. There was nothing good or noble in me to set me apart. It was sheer grace.
6. What a shame when a believer gives the impression to others, leaving a lasting image in their minds, that Christians are angry people that desire God's judgment on the lost and wicked. Oftentimes, Christians want God to bring judgment **now**. They want to see justice done and see God get even. Those thoughts and attitudes are what cause others to have an inaccurate picture of our God.

- This isn't the Day of Judgment; this is the day of salvation and grace. This isn't the Day of Judgment for sinners; this is the day of grace offered to sinners. Romans 2:5; 2 Corinthians 6:2
7. As Christians, we can get very cynical and forget where we came from. We can sit around loathing the fact that the world is wicked and evil. What we should be doing, however, is marveling at the grace of God that allows it to continue.
 - Every day that judgment is delayed is another opportunity for a sinner to turn to Christ and be saved from the wrath to come.
 8. Remember Jonah? He didn't want to go to Nineveh. It was a city full of pagan, wicked reprobates. Jonah was not reflecting the character of his God in heaven. As well, I'm afraid many times we are like Jonah; we forget and fail to show the heart and passion of our Father. 2 Peter 3:9
 - Pharisees don't mind "good people" getting saved, but the thought of murderers, rapists, child molesters, prostitutes, and terrorists getting saved doesn't sit well with the Pharisee. But God's Word says His will is for all people to be saved. 1 Timothy 2:4

Third, because it changes the lives of others.

1. Jesus talked to this woman personally after everybody else left. He took a personal interest in her. He could have just gotten up and left also. But he freed her. He set her free from bondage, and she left a different person. vs. 9-11
2. Jesus said, *"For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."* **John 3:17**
3. As you examine the life of Christ, one thing stands out clearly – He was so merciful. He was merciful to the people nobody else cared about. As a result of Christ's personal interest in others, He saw so many lives touched and changed.
4. Think about Paul. He was Saul of Tarsus – a blaspheming, violent, abusive man that imprisoned, beat, and killed believers. But Paul said, *"I obtained mercy,"* and because of that, his life was forever changed. 1 Timothy 1:13, 16
5. As we demonstrate God's grace, He can use us in mighty ways to impact lives at the core level – in the soul. But when our lives are like the Pharisee, and we delight in accusation and condemnation, we alienate everyone around us.
6. May we decide today to be like Barnabas and be glad when we see God's grace given to others!