

Connected

Sermon Snippets

John 8: 1-11

Sunday 29th May 2022

7th Sunday of Easter

Relationships are God's gifts - reflecting his love for us, his children, and for the world. God's love is our example for all relationships including marriage, parental love, friendship, and everything else.

The Problem

The problem is that, because we are imperfect and fallen, there is a dark side to this love. God created us free to reject him. This same freedom is crucial also to human love. Love bestowed without compulsion or guilt enables fulfilment in human relationships, when good choices are freely made. This is a way in which we find joyful life in God's name. The problem is that, at times, we exercise the freedom to be uncaring to those we are close to. Human love is not always faithful the way that God's love is always faithful. This applies to different types of relationship.

The Text

Larissa will take a deep dive into this complex text, considering:

- The highly vulnerable circumstances of the accused girl (not woman) in this text.
- That the Pharisees took advantage of this incident to trick Jesus.
- Why the Pharisees might have had such a sudden change of heart which prompted this sudden reluctance to continue the trial.
- And, finally, speculating on what might have happened next for this girl.



The Good News!

The first piece of good news is that, when we sin (even really badly), God often redeems terrible situations. When we've done something really bad, we need to respond by sincerely saying sorry and turning back to God in our heart. Often an alternative comes about thanks to God, which offers us a different sort of blessing that we didn't expect. If you are reeling from a bad decision, maybe the outcome will be better in the months or years to come.

The second piece of good news is that a better title for this piece of scripture is: "Jesus Does Not Condemn". We tend to be more scandalised by sexual sins but we are all sinners and Jesus died for us so that we may all avoid condemnation. Our record of wrongs was written in the sand but has been erased by Jesus.

Jubilee Events



- ❖ Daily Prayers all week
- ❖ Friday evening Jubilee Celebration Dinner at Christ Church (6pm for 6:30pm) (£10 - tickets available from the Church Office)
- ❖ Saturday Coffee Morning & Sale at Emmanuel (10:30am-12noon)
- ❖ Saturday Family Celebration Event at Christ Church (2pm-4pm)
- ❖ Sunday Jubilee Celebration Services at both churches (10:30am) (with buffet lunch following Emmanuel's Outdoor Service)

Prayer Pointers

Monday – Pray for churches, including Christ Church and Emmanuel, which have experienced a decline in numbers attending services following the Covid pandemic. Pray for recovery in church activity, especially for the Jubilee Dinner this Friday and the programme of Open Gardens, both of which will provide an opportunity to welcome newcomers and enquirers to the Church family.

Tuesday – “O Lord – when comes that promised time when war shall be no more?” As we come to the end of this most beautiful month of May, with the annual miracle of fresh new life in the countryside, let us pray daily for an end to the contrasting barbarism of war in the Ukraine and that the eyes of the ‘ordinary people’ of Russia may be opened to the evil which is being committed in their name by their current political leadership before it leads us all into a third world war.

Wednesday – Pray for Michael Beasley, the newly appointed Bishop of Bath & Wells, who has connections with Somerset through his wife (who comes from a farming family in this county).

Thursday – In 2014 nearly three hundred schoolgirls from a northern Nigerian province were abducted by ultra-fundamentalist Boko Haran militants, which forbids girls going to school. However, over fifty escaped after being kidnapped and were able to attend school. Barnabas Fund reports that two of them, Lydia and Joy, have gone on to achieve Masters Degrees from a Christian University in Florida. Lydia plans to become a human rights lawyer and Joy hopes to start a community support agency in the place where she grew up. Give thanks for stories like these and pray for the work of Barnabas Fund which does so much for Christians living in predominantly Muslim communities.

Friday – “Mission” conjures up visions of “overseas” and we can give thanks for those, including some in our own congregations, who have given up lucrative positions at home to work in third world countries. Pray by name for any you know who have, or maybe still, follow this calling, especially in West Africa (economic problems), India (severe persecution by radical Hindus), Afghanistan (Taliban), and Bangladesh.

Saturday – Pray for all those having a role in our services tomorrow. For the Welcomers on the doors; the Churchwardens making sure all is prepared; the Musicians leading our singing; the Bible Readers at the lectern; the one presenting our Intercessions; those instructing the children; the Preacher presenting God’s word; and the Refreshment Providers in the kitchen. Thank God for the rich provision of talent in our two churches and who do all for the honour of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Verse For The Week

"Jesus straightened up and asked her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?'
'No one, Sir,' she said.
'Then neither do I condemn you,' Jesus declared.
'Go now and leave your life of sin.'

John 8: 10-11

What's On This Week

Saturday 28th May

Open Garden at 2:30pm at Tom & Chris Webber's

Monday 30th May

Ladies Together at 2:30pm in The Spire Centre

Tuesday 31st May

Parish Prayers at 9:30am at Emmanuel
The Beacon at 12noon at Emmanuel

Wednesday 1st June

No Seedlings Toddler Group this week

Thursday 2nd June

Welcome Group at 2:30pm at Emmanuel
No Craft & Chat this week

Friday 3rd June-Sunday 5th June

See first page for all Jubilee events taking place

Watch the Morning Service

at www.ccwsm.org.uk

Go to the 'Church Life' menu and click on the 'Sunday Services' page.

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