

## Message Notes

### “Healing the Pain of our Past”

John 8:1-11

Jesus returned to the Mount of Olives, <sup>2</sup>but early the next morning he was back again at the Temple. A crowd soon gathered, and he sat down and taught them. <sup>3</sup>As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd. <sup>4</sup>“Teacher,” they said to Jesus, “this woman was caught in the act of adultery. <sup>5</sup>The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?” <sup>6</sup>They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. <sup>7</sup>They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, “All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!”<sup>8</sup> Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust. <sup>9</sup>When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, “Where are your accusers? Didn’t even one of them condemn you?” <sup>11</sup>“No, Lord,” she said. And Jesus said, “Neither do I. Go and sin no more.”

➤ Jesus was a **friend** to **sinners**.

“Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery! The Law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?”

- In a beautifully sensitive way, Jesus moved the focus of attention from a **war** of words to the **wounds** of this woman.

Four things Jesus may have written in the dust:

1. “What is your **name**?”
2. “Don’t you have **anything better** to do with your time?”
3. A **list** of **several** sins.

- One thing the Church and Christians can not say is: “I **don’t care** about the pain of people. Ask someone else to help them.”

4. “The **past** is over, go and claim your **future**.”

Three ways this woman may have responded to Christ:

1. She may have **gone back** to her sin in the same way that she was.
2. She may have gone back to things that were changing on the **outside**; but still feeling the weight of guilt & shame on the **inside**.
3. She may have been **changed completely** by Christ.