

WILL GOD STILL LOVE ME EVEN IF... Q

I MESSED UP

PRECEPT

JOHN 8:2-11

² At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. ³ The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group ⁴ and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. ⁵ In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" ⁶ They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. ⁷ When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." ⁸ Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. ⁹ At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. ¹⁰ Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" ¹¹ "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

PROMISE

God's Word reassures us that there is no shame greater than the name of Jesus. Some of us can be crippled by mistakes and sins of the pasts but the truth is, in our failures, God's perfection can be seen; in our mistakes, God's redemption can be evident; and in our weaknesses and brokenness, God's light shines through. The past that brought us shame can find renewal in Jesus' Name.

In John 8:2-11, a woman who was caught in the act of adultery was brought to Jesus, as a snare to test how He interprets and applies the law of Moses, which commanded that both men and women caught in the act of adultery be put to death. It seemed that the Pharisees wanted to see how Jesus would handle the case; will He uphold Moses' law and sentence her to death? Instead of focusing on the sin the woman committed, Jesus said, "*Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her*" (verse 7). This set the bar impossibly high for anyone to be sinless enough to pass judgment and demand the sentence of death. Jesus showed compassion to her and took her shame away. He did not discount the sin she committed, but called her to live a different life away from her sin. Does Jesus forgive us and find us worthy after we have sinned? Yes. He forgives and commands us to live a different life, as seen in the scenario mentioned above. Exodus 34:6-7 says, "*The Lord is a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love and truth, maintaining faithful love to a thousand generations, forgiving iniquity, rebellion, and sin.*"

Feelings of shame and guilt can torment us into a downward spiral of despair and more sin, thinking—"I'll never change. I might as well give up and give in again." Or "I've already gone this far—already sealed my fate as a sinner—I might as well keep going." Or "I can never forgive myself for what I've done." But Jesus showed us in His Word countless times that even if we mess up, He still loves us and will not condemn us. Rather, He loves us too much not to condone our sin so we can be better versions of ourselves and live peacefully and victoriously. If we are true believers of Christ, we must say no to sin. Ephesians 4:23-24 tells us, "*Your attitudes and thoughts must all be constantly changing for the better. Yes, you must be a new and different person, holy and good. Clothe yourself with this new nature.*"

Jesus offers forgiveness when we miss the mark or commit mistakes. We can always come to Him for restoration, repentance, and refuge.

PRACTICE

1. Feelings of Shame. Can you remember the last time you felt shame towards God? What did you do to resolve it?

2. Redeemed. Is your relationship with God currently limited by feelings of shame? What can you do this week to begin to come clean? How can this group support you?

PRAYER

I. Life Groups

- May our life groups be an avenue for people to connect, grow, & be encouraged at all times.

II. Leaders

- Pray for the pastors & leaders to always have strength & passion to care for God's people.

III. Relationships

- Pray for a deeper relationship among all members. May there always be love and harmony among us.

IV. Giving

- Pray that we will always give cheerfully to the church & to the needy. Pray for provision for all.

V. Family

- Pray that parents will be intentional in providing love and support to all their family members.

VI. Guidance

- Pray that God may always direct our path and give us wisdom in making decisions.

VII. Hope

- Pray that we will always have hope because of Christ & for strength, grace, & courage.