

# SAVAGE JESUS

WEEK 4  
WOMAN CAUGHT IN  
ADULTERY  
DANNY ANDERSON



Our vision of Jesus shapes our faith.

“Teacher,” they said to Jesus, “this woman was caught **in the act** of adultery. The law of Moses says to **stone** her. What do you say?” [...] 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!” *John 8:4-5,7*

Only those who are without fault have the right to condemn.

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. Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, “Where are your accusers? Didn’t even one of them condemn you?” “No, Lord,” she said. And Jesus said, “Neither do I. Go and sin **no more.**” *John 8:9-11*

1. The one who could condemn chose to give mercy.

“For God did not send his Son into the world to **condemn** the world, but in order that the world might be **saved** through him.” *John 3:17*

Mercy **triumphs** over judgment. *James 2:13*

2. Jesus believed in her.

Jesus believes that with his help sinners can become saints.

“But you are to be **perfect**, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.” *Matthew 5:48*

“When He said, ‘Be perfect,’ He meant that we must go in for the **full treatment.**” – C.S. Lewis

...throw off your old sinful nature and your **former way of life**, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your **new nature**, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy. *Ephesians 4:22-24*

Without the resurrection there is no mercy.

And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is **useless** and you are **still guilty** of your sins. *1 Corinthians 15:17*

Without the resurrection there is no hope for change.

And the Lord—who is the **Spirit**—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image. *2 Corinthians 3:18*

## Group Prep

In preparation for group, read Matthew 8:4-11, listen to the Weekend Service message, then answer the following discussion questions.

## Introduction

Through Jesus Christ’s sacrifice on the cross, we have been forgiven of our sin, but God refuses to let us stay the same person we were before accepting Him as our Savior. He has a plan for those of us who call Him “Lord,” and that includes partnering with Him to accomplish His purpose for our life. He wants us to live an abundant life, but it can only be lived by cooperating with the Spirit of God.

## Discussion Questions

1. Share a story of when you got caught red-handed? Read Hebrews 4:13. How does it make you feel to know that your Creator knows everything about you?

2. Take a moment to recap the story of the adulterous woman found in John 8:4-11. Why does this story show how savage (countercultural) Jesus is? How do you relate to this woman? Do you ever find yourself taking on the perspective of the Pharisees in this story? How so?

What does this interaction reveal about how Jesus feels toward people? Read James 2:12-13. Is there any place in your life that judgment triumphs over mercy, and what would help you lean toward mercy?

3. At the end of this interaction, Jesus tells the woman, “Go and sin no more.” Jesus had faith in her to accomplish His request. Read Matthew 5:48. Most of the time we talk about having faith in God. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus has faith in you to become more and more like Him – perfect?

Why should the sacrifice of Jesus Christ (Easter) lead us to make changes in our life? Read 2 Corinthians 3:16-18. When Jesus died on the cross, He accomplished two things - He defeated sin and made change possible in us through the gift of the Holy Spirit. How does the Holy Spirit guide us into becoming perfect, mature, or just like Jesus?

Often times, we try to make changes using willpower. What is willpower? How can we tell whether or not we are relying on it or cooperating with the Holy Spirit?

## Action Step

Where do you feel the Holy Spirit asking you to cooperate with Him? If anything, what hurdles keep you from doing so? What will you do this week to better partner with the Holy Spirit to initiate change in your life?

My action step is \_\_\_\_\_.

I will encourage and pray for \_\_\_\_\_ to follow through, and their action step is \_\_\_\_\_.

My memory verse is \_\_\_\_\_.

This coming week, I’m praying for \_\_\_\_\_.

## Outreach: Groups in Action

Supplies needed for mission trip to Colombia: Ask your group to collect small, beanie baby-sized stuffed animals and happy meal size toys for Emmanuel’s upcoming Colombia mission trip. These are needed by June 12. Small balls, boxcars, figurines are all perfect. Please drop them off in the bin located by the Impact corner.

Support a foster family: Emmanuel has multiple families who have recently brought foster children into their home. Preparing a meal, purchasing a gift card, mowing the lawn, providing childcare, or cleaning a house are just a few ways we can support them as they provide structure for a child in need. For more information, email Kerry Carmichael at [kcarmichael@eclife.org](mailto:kcarmichael@eclife.org).