

SERMON: HE CAME NOT TO CONDEMN

SCRIPTURE: John 3:16-17

Introduction: It is one thing to condemn someone for a sin for wrongdoing, but it is another to save them from it or give them the power to overcome it. Jesus condemns sin in the flesh, but not the sinner. He came to save the sinner from his sins.

1. JESUS SAID “NEITHER DO I CONDEMN THEE”

- a. The story of the woman found in an act of sin and the action of Jesus illustrates how God deals with the sinner. (John 8:11)
 - i. The woman was indeed a sinner. The Jews expected Jesus to condemn her according to the law. The law says she is guilty and should die. The purpose of the law is to condemn or make one guilty, but Jesus came not to condemn, but to save.
 - ii. Note: those who brought the woman to Jesus were condemned by their own consciences. They could not cast “the first stone.”
 - iii. Jesus said, “neither do I condemn thee.... Go, sin no more.” Herein, we see the ministry or recovery or salvation and not more condemnation.

2. BUT THAT THE WORLD MIGHT BE SAVED

- a. If Jesus came not to condemn, but to save, how was this done?
 - i. It was motivated by the love of God. “God so loved the world that He gave”
 - ii. Salvation is a gift of God, “not of works lest any man should boast.” We obtain this gift through His wonderful grace.
 - iii. The world is saved through the “sacrifice” of Jesus. God so loved “He gave.”
 - iv. When Jesus came into the world he identified himself with fallen mankind . He became a man; He took upon himself our sins; He became a servant; He felt our infirmities. Therefore, He knows how to save us.
- b. The law did not save the world, it only made the world aware of sin and pointed to a Messiah or Deliverer. Jesus was that Messiah and He came to save.

3. HOW SHOULD MAN RESPOND TO THE SAVIOUR

- a. While it is true that Jesus came to seek and save the lost, it is also true that man must respond to this plan. “That whosoever believeth.” The sinner must believe the work of God.
- b. The goodness of God in providing salvation should lead sinner to repentance. (Romans 2:4)
- c. Note, also Jesus told the woman to “sin no more” There is need for the sinner to become an overcomer. (Isaiah 55:7)

Conclusion: The sinner who has been saved by the grace and mercy of God, should be the last person to condemn another. We should show God’s grace toward us by being merciful to others.