

July 17, 2007

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## "Forgiven"

John 8:7 - 11 (NKJV)  
Psalm 32: 1 & 2 (NKJV)

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- The Bible contains many theological terms, which forms the Christian doctrine.
- These doctrines are very important in establishing our faith.
- They serve to inform, as well as inspire us.
- For example, the word, **redeem** means "to buy something back or to purchase one's freedom."
- The term **salvation** is defined as "being rescued from danger, saved from sin."
- However, one of the most important and relevant words to us today is this word – **forgiven**.
- Forgiven, as it relates to God, is defined as an act of God's grace to forget forever, and not hold us accountable for past sins if we confess and seek forgiveness.
- The doctrine of Divine forgiveness is the centerpiece of the Christian Faith.
- If there is no forgiveness, there is no salvation.
- The need for this doctrine emerged after Genesis 3, after the fall of Adam and Eve.
- Everyone needs forgiveness.
- The Bible declares that all have sinned and come short of God's glory. (Romans 3:23)
- Sin is defined as "missing the mark."
- Throughout the Old Testament, forgiveness was sought through the sacrificial system.
- However, Jesus came to do a new thing.

- No longer is the blood of bulls, doves, and goats required to obtain forgiveness.
- Jesus became the perfect and final sacrifice through which forgiveness could be obtained.
- His earthly ministry was highlighted by His acts of mercy and forgiveness. (He touched lepers and ate with tax collectors.)
- Our scriptural text is a wonderful example of Jesus' divinity as well as man's depravity.
- Jesus is seen as an understanding, loving, and forgiving Savior.
- On the other hand, man's guilt and sinfulness is pictured in the other parties involved.
- They were all guilty of something.
- Jesus was the only righteous one in the text.
- The woman was guilty of the sin of adultery.
- The witnesses who caught her in the very act were guilty. They were more concerned with exposing her than with helping her.
- Worst of all, it was religious leaders, the scribes and the Pharisees, who publicly brought her to Jesus.
- They were more concerned with punishing her than with restoring her.
- Many church leaders today are just like those leaders, more concerned with punishment than with restoration.
- But note this very significant point: only Jesus responded with compassion to the woman.
- He ignored the witnesses and embarrassed the religious leaders.
- But to the woman he offered grace, mercy, and most importantly, forgiveness.
- He said. "Go and sin no more."