

1. **Intro Question:** How do you cope with shame in your life?
  1. **Shame-Honor** - “Honor and shame are the foundational values of many cultures, but every culture expresses those values uniquely. Every culture has its own flavor of honor and shame.”
  2. Relevant for our story today - “**Middle Eastern** cultures tend to compete aggressively for honor, so can feel justified using violence to defend their honor (i.e., honor killings, terrorism).”
  3. **Western shame** tends to be more private and personal. It is an internal, psychological emotion often rooted in the fragmentation and alienation of modern life. Shame is not so much community scorn (though social media is bringing this aspect out more and more), but low self-esteem.
2. **Precedent** - Lev. 20:10; Deut. 22:22
  1. “If a man commits adultery with his neighbor’s wife, both the adulterer and the adulteress must be put to death.” (Leviticus 20:10 NET)
  2. ““If a man is found lying with a married woman, then both of them shall die, the man who lay with the woman, and the woman; thus you shall purge the evil from Israel.” (Deuteronomy 22:22 NAS95)
3. **Passage in Focus** - John 8:1-12
  1. v. 1 - Setting of Feast of Tabernacles - AD 30; 6-8 months before Calvary
    1. 12 Massive bowls of oil were lit to commemorate the Exodus and the fiery pillar that saved them
  2. vv. 2-5
    1. How do you think the woman felt when she was publicly accused of adultery? How would you have felt if you were her? John 8:2-5
  3. Who were the religious leaders really trying to condemn?
    1. “They were saying this, testing Him, so that they might have grounds for accusing Him. But Jesus stooped down and with His finger wrote on the ground.” (John 8:6 NAS95)

4. **The Dilemma** -
  1. **Quote** - “Their pretended reverence veiled a deep-laid plot for His ruin. They had seized upon this opportunity to secure His condemnation, thinking that whatever decision He might make, they would find occasion to accuse Him. Should He acquit the woman, He might be charged with despising the law of Moses. Should He declare her worthy of death, He could be accused to the Romans as one who was assuming authority that belonged only to them.” {DA 460.5}
  2. vv. 7-10 Jesus wrote on the ground & the Spirit of conviction spoke to the guilty.
    1. Why did they leave? **Shame**
      1. **Quote:** “He had not set aside the law given through Moses, nor infringed upon the authority of Rome. The accusers had been defeated. Now, their robe of pretended holiness torn from them, they stood, guilty and condemned, in the presence of Infinite Purity. They trembled lest the hidden iniquity of their lives should be laid open to the multitude; and one by one, with bowed heads and downcast eyes, they stole away, leaving their victim with the pitying Saviour. {DA 461.4}
5. **Key Lessons from John 8:1-12** -
  1. Freedom from condemnation precedes freedom from slavery to sin.
  2. Being treasured precedes being transformed.
  3. Being loved unselfishly precedes being able to love others unselfishly.
  4. Experiencing healing precedes being able to help others heal.
6. Compare with Luke 7:36-50
  1. **Commentary** - “Simon knew the woman had openly disregarded the law of God. He knew she was a “sinner” and “untouchable.” Jesus knew all

were sinners and in need of God’s forgiveness. That is why he came. Simon hadn’t understood the depth of his own sin and the greatness of God’s love.

2. Those who recognize they have been forgiven much, will love much. Jesus is not encouraging people to commit lots of sinful acts so they can be forgiven much and love much. He is calling us to recognize how great our sin already is.” - Clinton Meharry
7. **Comparative Apocalyptic Prophecy** - Ezekiel 16:36–40
  1. God promises justice and wrath upon the adulterous people.
  2. That wrath was poured out on the blameless & the condemnation that we all deserve was applied to Jesus Christ!
  3. “God made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we would become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5:21 NET)
8. Why did Jesus ask for whoever was without sin to throw the first stone?
  1. He knew that He was the only blameless one among them. And he knew that He would bear the woman’s sin in His death.
9. Text - “Christ hates the sin, but loves the sinner. This will be the spirit of all who follow Him. Christian love is slow to censure, quick to discern penitence, ready to forgive, to encourage, to set the wanderer in the path of holiness, and to stay his feet therein.” {DA 462.4}
10. **Key Lessons from John 8:1-12** -
  1. Freedom from condemnation precedes freedom from slavery to sin.
  2. Being treasured precedes being transformed.
  3. Being loved unselfishly precedes being able to love others unselfishly.
  4. The Experience of healing precedes being able to help others heal.

**11. Appeal Story : Illustration** - Origin Of “Ben Hur”

Two infidels once sat on a railroad train, discussing the life of Christ. One of them said, “I think an interesting romance could be written about him.” The other replied, “And you are just the man to write it. Tear down the prevailing sentiment about His divinity, and paint Him as a man—a man among men.”

The suggestion was acted upon and the romance written. The man who made the suggestion was Colonel Ingersoll, the noted atheist. The writer was General Lew Wallace, and the book was called Ben Hur.

In the process of constructing the life of Christ, Gen. Wallace found himself facing the greatest life ever lived on earth. The more he studied, the more he was convinced Christ was more than man. Until one day, he was forced to cry “Verily, this was the Son of God!”

Love Comparisons by Clinton Meharry:

NATURAL HUMAN LOVE IS:	GOD’S LOVE IS:
<b>CONDITIONAL</b> Depends on beauty or goodness and therefore needs arousing	<b>UNCONDITIONAL</b> Is spontaneous, uncaused, and independent of our goodness (see Romans 5:6-10; 2Corinthians 5:19)
<b>CHANGEABLE</b> Fluctuates and is unreliable, based upon emotions and circumstances	<b>CHANGELESS</b> Is everlasting (see Jeremiah 31:3; Romans 8:35-39 and John 13:1)
<b>SELF-SEEKING</b> Seeks acceptance and fulfillment through possessions, performance and power. Tries to be better than others to make themselves valuable	<b>SELF-EMPTYING</b> Is selfless, and therefore will step down for the benefit of others (see 1 Corinthians 13:5; 2 Corinthians 8:9; and Philippians 2:6-8)