

TalkPrep: The Woman Caught in Adultery (John 8:2-11)

The aim of the TalkPrep is to prepare a talk that lets Christ talk for Himself through you.

Prayer: Jesus I want to see you in these words. I want to see me in these words. I want to see my friends in these words. I ask You to speak for yourself into my life and into the life of others through me. Amen.

Scripture

John 8:2-11 (New Living Translation)

2 but early the next morning he was back again at the Temple. A crowd soon gathered, and he sat down and taught them.

3 As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd.

4 "Teacher," they said to Jesus, "this woman was caught in the act of adultery.

5 The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?"

6 They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger.

7 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!"

8 Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust.

9 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.

10 Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, "Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?"

11 "No, Lord," she said. And Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more."

Observations—Go through the checklist next to the scripture.

- Read the passage quickly twice.
- Read the passage slowly twice.
- Think of at least two questions that you have about this passage. Write them down below.
 - 1.
 - 2.
- List the key people in this passage.
- Make the simplest outline (2-4 parts) you can think of for this passage.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.

Scripture (cont.)



Interpretation—Go through the checklist

- Read the passages immediately before and after this passage. What do they have to do with this passage? (They may or may not help but it is critical to look for connections)

- What does this passage teach us about Jesus?

- What does this passage teach us about everyday people?

- What did Jesus want those he was talking to in the story to learn? (Put yourself in the story)

- How does this relate to today?

Background Info



- i** This section has brackets around it in most Bibles. This is because this story is not found in the earliest copies of the book of John. This story was certainly true, but likely was originally in one of the other gospel collections.
- i** Verse 2—*The Temple*— This was the center of everything for all Jews. This was an enormous building where all the activities of priests were performed. Jewish people would visit this location every year.
- i** Verse 2— *He sat and taught them*—Speakers today normally stand when they speak. In Jesus' time, the teacher would sit and that signified that he was going to start teaching.
- i** Verse 3—*The teachers of the religious law*— These people would copy the Old Testament letter for letter as part of their job. These people spent thousands and thousands of hours each year reviewing all the of the precise details of the Bible they had at that time, the Old Testament.
- i** Verse 3-4—*Caught in the act of adultery*— Literally in the very act of adultery, or sexual activity with a man who was not her husband.
- i** Verse 5—*In the Law of Moses*— This is found in Deuteronomy 22:22. It is interesting that this Law says that both people involved are to die, yet only the woman was brought before Jesus. This law also does not require her to die, but it is a possible consequence of adultery.
- i** Verse 9—Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd— It is helpful to notice that everyone was crowded around him. It was Jesus and the woman in the middle of everything. It may be helpful to go into the middle of the people you are talking to illustrate this.

- Review your notes from the preceding pages. What do you think Jesus wants to teach you (yes, YOU) through this passage of scripture? (DO NOT SKIP THIS STEP)

- What verses do you want to stop to explain because they are critical to understanding the passage?

A



...Tip

Be sure to stop to explain or reword the following words: Temple, Pharisee, adultery, Law of Moses.

Main Point

- What is the main point of this passage? (Make at least 4 attempts at this)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

- Reword the one that makes the most sense to you for this talk

- Now try to reword it again in as few words as possible

B

Challenge

- Think of at least 3 practical ways someone can respond to this Main Point, you will say this when you close. (see B)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

- ...Tip: Have the application be something other than to "think" a certain way. For example rather than "think how you would feel if you were her", you could say, "Identify a time when you felt like the woman"

- Pick the best challenge and reword it in as few words as possible

C



Intro Story



...Tip

Try your best not to plan a talk about a personal story. Let the Bible story be the highlight, not “your” story.

- Brainstorm two or three events in your life, funny or serious, that connect with your main point (B)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Which one makes the most sense with the main point? Summarize the main points here.

D



Final Outline



...Tip

While an outline is very helpful, make it more like talking with friends rather than a “speech” for them to listen to.

Insert your work here:

1. Intro (D)
2. Bible story. Read it and highlight these points (A)
3. Say your main point (B)
4. Application (C)
5. Restate your main point (B), then pray.



Communicating

Now that you have your talk planned, you should think about ways to improve your delivery. Here are a couple ideas:

- What tangible objects are in the Bible text (example: a rock). How can you use these in your talk?
- What feelings should be obvious in this talk? What emotions are in the Bible story? What emotions do you have?
- What movement happens in the story (example: they “brought” a woman [verse 3]), how can you illustrate this? Is there a way to use this to interact with the audience? How can you move around the room as you speak?
- How can you communicate that you care about the audience?
- It is helpful to be very clear with them with phrases like, “Let me be honest with you”, and “if you haven’t heard anything tonight, I want you to hear this...”