

## GLASS HOUSES

**Intro:** People in Glass houses shouldn't throw stones **wasn't** one of my favourite sayings

Only because we lived in a wood and Iron house and later a brick house – I couldn't even comprehend what a glass house looked like

It means that one should not criticize others, because everybody has faults of one kind or another.

With that in mind let's read John 8:1-11 of the story of the Woman caught in adultery?

**So you can remember it better I will teach it in a few points all starting with T**

### **The trap**

It wasn't a passion for holiness more than they wanted to test him / trap him

They wanted him to act in the civil position of a judge- a place reserved for the Roman authorities. So if he made a judgment call he would be accused of illegally taking the place of a judge –normally reserved for a Roman official

If he ignored the law as stated in :

**Leviticus 20:10 (NIV)**<sup>10</sup> "If a man commits adultery with another man's wife—with the wife of his neighbour—both the adulterer and the adulteress are to be put to death.

They would have . He wasn't going to be judge or change the law

John 3:17 For God did not send his son into the world to condemn (judge) but the world through him might be saved

This isn't the time

### **The tormentors**

We hear them all the time. We have them in our families, our workplaces, our churches – they are in your face they are called tormentors

Jesus was constantly harassed by these people

They kept on ...questioning him ... In order to have a basis for accusing him

The previous chapter gives you the background (they tried to kill him, they tried to seize him, they tried to arrest him, etc)

In the outside they look like good upright moral people

They seem to have it all together

They torment you because perhaps they themselves are in torment

They tormented Jesus with barraging questions

They tormented the woman

### **The target**

Woman caught in the act of adultery the word caught denotes apprehend **with mental or moral effort**

By the way if she was caught in adultery where was the man?

Were they scared of him to bring him in too?

Why is only the woman who was tormented?

How many times we see the act of adultery but fail to see **the woman -a person**

So many times it is easy to see the sins of another, but forget the pain of sin in a person

She probably was sister, a daughter, a mother a friend, a wife . a bff

The religious people and Jesus see the same target but they both see them differently  
The religious people saw the act of sin  
How often when we live in glass houses **everything outside seems so dirty**, but if the truth be told it's the glass of our house that is really dirty not the people who are passing by our glass house  
, Jesus saw a woman with the pain of sin, a woman lost, embarrassed, who was burdened and heavy laden, a woman who didn't need condemnation, but forgiveness

### **The turf**

He bends down and writes in the sand. We know the lady was standing there all the time

Phil 2 tells us Jesus gave up his reputation, he made himself nothing and made himself a servant and he humbled himself

As he bends down – the words of **2 Cor 5:21** rings in our ears "God made him who knew no sin to become sin for us so that we might become the righteous of God "

1 Pet 2:24 says Jesus bore our sins

How could he have done that standing up, he had to bend down to the woman who was despised and ashamed

Note there is another time God writes and it deals with sin when he gives the commandments he writes in tablets of stone - his commandments as the y say set in stone - are irreversible

This time and the only time its recorded Jesus writes on the ground - again with sin It's easier to write in the sand than on stone

The beauty of writing in sand is you can erase what you wrote so quickly.

It's like Jesus can do to this with this lady

**Isaiah 43:25 NIV** "I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.

Christian Standard Bible "I--I sweep away your transgressions for my own sake and remember your sins no more.

### **The turnaround**

Jesus puts the ball back into the court of the tormentor. He stands up to speak at the tormenters

He that is without sin let him first cast the stone

that's what Jesus does when your tormentors are in your face he stands up to defend you

Deut 32:4 GNT: 4 "The Lord is your mighty defender, perfect and just in all his ways; Your God is faithful and true; he does what is right and fair.

Ok we will uphold the law because that's what we got to do but let's not follow the law just to the letter, let's follow it to the spirit

Let anyone who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her

Ok boys

The true spirit of the law is not something we should observe outwardly and externally but something we should hold inwardly and internally

## **The truth**

**That day Jesus didn't** sit on any judgment bench but on the bench of truth  
He stoops down on his haunches 'his loins girded with the belt of truth'

He stoops down again perhaps this time to let truth sink in the tormentor and to also hit the target

The tormentors walk away realizing what Jesus had said was so true

They knew whether they loved or hated what he said, what he said will set the **them** free from their own torment.

It's not in pointing out about the sins and faults of others but having a deep look at the hypocrisy of your own faults and failures that helps you to become free

Matthew 7:3-5 (NIV) <sup>3</sup>"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? <sup>4</sup>How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? <sup>5</sup>You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

He stands up to speak to the woman the **target: where** are they? Has no one condemned you?

Neither do I condemn you, go and sin no more

As a woman who was guilty of misconduct she knew what he just said forever will set her to be a free woman . "You are **not condemned** but go and sin no more

## **Today**

Last week was a horrid week for the church .When Cardinal Pell was found guilty of gross misconduct.

No two ways about it minister must be above reproach and is not above the law  
Sure being caught in the act adultery and abusing young boys is cheese and chalk

But all the raw hatred that was unleashed –its understandable but was it necessary in the context of what has been said

Sure I guess I would never understand the shame and pain of those people who have been hurt

Should there not be a lesson here :Let anyone who is without sin be the first to cast the stone at the object of sin

Look at the stones in your hand, if you were ready to hurl a few

**Isn't it important that in fighting the monster ,that we ourselves don't become the monster .**

I had a few to throw too but it was coincidental that I was preparing this message to share with all of you :

Am I without sin? Am I myself not living in a glass house?

Am I wanting to test the Lord, Am I a tormentor, and Am I a target? Am I fully cognizant of the turf or ways of Jesus? Am I willing to turn around and become the target of truth .Am I receiving the truth?

I don't know what happened to the woman but I believe the song we about it hear might sum it up nicely

### **PLAY THE VIDEO: ALL MY HOPE BY CROWDER**

### **PRAYER**

#### **SALVATION PRAYER**

Jesus came to give you a life of abundance

He came to forgive all your sins so you don't have to live with guilt and shame. He wants to now fill your life with love, joy, peace & goodness and much more .He wants to give you the opportunity to live forever. That's possible if you repent of your sins

All of us have sinned and fallen short of Gods expectation and there is only one person who can save us and make us right again. His name is Jesus and you can ask him right now to come in and be the Lord in your life

If you invite him into your life everything in your life turns from death to life, sin to salvation, hopelessness into everlasting joy

I can guarantee that if you do, your life will be so more meaningful and filled with purpose and a sense of destiny! Would you like to ask him into your life right now?

#### **PRAYER**

Alan Pillay 030319