

She Was Set Up, But Grace Showed Up:

Breaking Free from Shame

(John 8:1–11)

INTRO

Welcome to this soul-shifting, system-flipping, shame-breaking Bible study experience.

This isn't just a story about adultery.
It's a story about **Jesus protecting women**, confronting hypocrisy, and showing that **grace has a backbone.**

We're not calling her "the woman caught in adultery" anymore.
Tonight, she's **the Set-Up Sister** and Jesus is her public defender.

CONTEXT + WOMANIST INSIGHT

This text—John 8:1–11—is often labeled "The Pericope Adulterae," but that name centers her sin, not her story.
She was **not just caught. She was exploited.**
The religious leaders didn't bring justice.
They brought a setup.
And Jesus didn't just save her life, **He saved her dignity.**

🔥 POINT 1: You Are Not What They Caught You In

📖 **Scripture:** John 8:4–7

Preach This:
They said she was caught in the act. But sis, we don't know the whole story.
What we do know?
They dragged her. Not him.
This wasn't about sin. It was **a spectacle.**
The law said stone her.
But Love said see her.

📜 **Word Study (Greek: hamartia):**
Hamartia = to miss the mark.
But Jesus never *calls* her a sinner.
He shifts the focus from her mistake to their *motive*.

👑 **Womanist Wisdom:**
Black women are often assumed guilty before heard.
Jesus doesn't participate in that gaze. He **interrupts it.**

🔥 **Modern Mirrors:**

- *Cassie & Diddy*: Public presence doesn't equal consent.
- *Leaked Nudes*: Her body becomes the scandal; his act becomes invisible.
- *Church Girl Pregnant*: She gets sat down. He stays standing.
  Jesus flips it.

💡 **Reflect + Journal:**

- Where have I been judged unfairly or prematurely?
- What headlines have people written about me that aren't true?

The Gem:
"You are not what they caught you in. You are who Christ covered in."

🔥 POINT 2: Beware of Holy Men with Hidden Agendas

📖 **Scripture:** John 8:6

Preach This:
This wasn't about holiness. It was about **control.**

The law was their weapon. Her body was their bait.
And that same spirit is alive today.

📜 **Word Study (Greek: peirazō):**
Peirazō = to trap, bait, set someone up for failure.
That wasn't accountability. It was ambush.

🚨 **Call Out the Systems:**

- Patriarchy in the pulpit
- Clergy abuse + silence culture
- Misogynoir in ministry
- Respectability politics
- Purity culture shame theology
- Religious legalism
- Political control of women's bodies in God's name

💡 **Reflect + Journal:**

- Where have I experienced spiritual manipulation or shame?
- Have I mistaken authority for anointing?

The Gem:
"You are not bait. You are beloved. And any man who uses God's name to manipulate your body is not speaking for heaven—he's speaking from hell."

🔥 POINT 3: Grace Doesn't Excuse You—It Empowers You

📖 **Scripture:** John 8:10–11

Preach This:
Jesus didn't say, "You're fine."
He said, "You're free."
Grace isn't a pass—it's **permission to rise.**

📜 **Word Study (Greek: mēketi hamartane):**
"Go and sin no more" = an invitation to step out of the cycle, not a threat of punishment.

👑 **Womanist Wisdom:**
This isn't purity culture.

Jesus didn't drag her to testify.
He *restored her in silence and strength.*

🔥 **Modern Mirrors:**

- The woman who had an abortion and still feels dirty.
- The girl labeled "fast" for existing in a body they don't understand.
- The single mother who gets judged but still worships.

💡 **Reflect + Journal:**

- Where do I need to receive grace, not earn it?
- What new story is grace giving me permission to write?

The Gem:
"Grace won't just let you off the hook—it hands you the hammer and says: Build something new, baby."

🔥 POINT 4: Jesus Confronts Injustice Before He Corrects You

📖 **Scripture:** John 8:6–9

Preach This:
Before He corrected her, Jesus **shut the system down.**
He confronted the real sin: **the court, not the caught.**

📜 **Word Study (Greek: katagrafō):**
Jesus stooped and wrote, not doodling, but **documenting the hypocrisy** in the dirt.

👑 **Womanist Wisdom:**
You cannot preach holiness and protect predators.
You cannot stay silent while women bleed in the pews.
Jesus doesn't hush women. He *hushes systems.*

🚨 **Let's Name It Loud:**

- Patriarchy
- Clergy silence
- Gendered punishment
- Religious double standards
- Public shame culture

- Whitewashed misogyny
  He flips every table.

💡 **Reflect + Journal:**

- What systems have condemned me more than they've protected me?
- Where do I need Jesus to flip the script and defend me?

The Gem:
"Before God deals with your decisions, He will confront the injustice that condemned you for them."

🔥 POINT 5: Your Freedom Isn't Fragile. It's Final.

📖 **Scripture:** John 8:11

Preach This:
She didn't walk away halfway forgiven.
She walked away **fully free.**
No stoning. No sermon. No scarlet letter.

📜 **Word Study (Greek: oude egō se katakrinō):**
"I do not condemn you" = *judicial acquittal.*
Jesus cleared her name **legally, publicly, eternally.**

👑 **Womanist Wisdom:**
You don't need to keep paying for what Jesus already covered.
You don't owe shame another dime.
You don't have to keep defending your deliverance.

💡 **Reflect + Journal:**

- Where am I still living like I'm on trial?
- What has Jesus already freed me from that I need to walk away from fully?

The Gem:
"Grace didn't put you on trial. Grace set you free."

🙏 CLOSING PRAYER

Jesus, thank You for seeing us not through shame, but through love.
Thank You for stooping down when we were exposed, covering us in grace, and calling us forward.

We receive Your mercy.
We accept Your justice.
And we walk in Your freedom.
Amen.

📝 JOURNAL PROMPT

What setup have I survived that God is now using to set me free?

📣 DECLARATIONS TO SPEAK ALOUD

- I am not what they said. I am who God sees.
- I don't owe shame another minute of my life.
- Grace didn't excuse me—it empowered me.
- I walk in full freedom. No more courtroom in my mind.
- Jesus stood for me—and now I stand for myself.

✨ NEXT STEPS

Ready for more?

🎓 Join the **House of Women Inner Circle** — a space for smart, spiritual women like you who love Jesus for real and just wanna live free! JOIN HERE
💎 Grab my book *The Sisters Stay Dropping Gems* for more truths from powerful women in Scripture.
📺 Subscribe to House of Women LIVE on YouTube. We're on the road to 1,000 subscribers and every single one matters.

📣 **Don't keep this to yourself! Share this study with a woman who needs to remember that she's still worthy.**