

Not a Fan—More than rules

Study Questions

John 8:1-11

Warm-up

1) What are some rules you used to follow religiously (maybe as a child), but that you don't follow any more?

Are there any rules you used to follow that you know aren't really important, but you still follow them anyway?

A little deeper

2) [John 8:1-4] The Pharisees brought a woman before Jesus who they said had just been caught in the act of adultery. What are some ways in which the Pharisees are not being loving to people in this situation—who are they offending?

How could the Pharisees have handled it differently if they really cared about those people the way we are called to love others (as followers of Jesus)?

3) [John 8:5-6] The Pharisees reminded everyone present what the Law said to do with adulterers. If the Pharisees were really so concerned with following the Law, what do you think they would have done when they encountered the adulterous couple?

Have you encountered similar situations in which someone has used "the rules" to try to make a point or trap someone, showing disregard for the rules in doing so?

4) [John 8:7-9] One of the "rules" of polite conversation is that you answer the question that someone has asked you. Jesus did not do this until he had spent some time writing on the ground with his finger. How do you think things might have gone differently if Jesus had given His answer right away?

Why do you think the older Pharisees left first?

5) [John 8:10-11] Jesus didn't just tell the woman to leave, he talked to her (another "known sinner" at this point). How would you characterize Jesus's response to the adulteress?

How was Jesus treating her differently from the Pharisees?

Bringing it home

6) Putting yourself in the place of the woman in this situation, are there any rules you feel condemned under?

If so, how do you think Jesus is responding to you?

7) Putting yourself in the place of the Pharisees, are there any situations in which you are acting as judge or executioner?

If so, how might you act instead, in light of Jesus's response here in John 8:1-11?

8) [Romans 6:17] Are you still living parts of your life in pursuit of satisfying rules, or desires, or other people?

What would bring you to pursue a more serious relationship with Jesus, instead?