

'When Things Go Wrong'

Extension Work and Personal Search

A Woman Caught in Adultery

Jesus returned to the Mount of Olives, but early the next morning he was back again at the Temple. A crowd soon gathered, and he sat down and taught them. As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and Pharisees brought a woman they had caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd.

"Teacher," they said to Jesus, "this woman was caught in the very act of adultery. The Law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?"

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. They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, "All right, stone her. But let those who have never sinned throw the first stones!" Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust.

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

"No, Lord," she said.

And Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more."

(The Bible, John chapter 8 verses 1 - 11, NLT)

1. What had the woman done? What was the punishment for this?
2. The man involved was not to be punished – what do you think about this?
3. Did Jesus condemn the woman? What did he say to her? What did he mean her to do?
4. What do you think about the way Jesus treated the woman?
5. What did Jesus say to the people who had brought the woman to him? What did he want them to think about?

"You must make allowance for each other's faults and forgive the person who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others."

(The Bible, Colossians chapter 3 verse 13, NLT)

Jesus taught that, whatever people have done wrong, they can seek God's forgiveness. With God's help people can change and make a new start.

1. What does it mean to "seek God's forgiveness"? Should people say sorry when they have done wrong? Who to?
2. When people have done wrong, are there sometimes things they can do to help put things right? Give some examples (e.g. bullying, theft, vandalism).
3. What does it mean to "make allowances for each other's faults"? How can married couples sort things out when there are problems?
4. In marriage, couples often need to "forgive and forget". What do Christians believe about this? What do you think? Are there limits to what can be forgiven? What do you think Jesus would want?