



GOSPEL REVOLUTION “The Power to Change” *John 8:1-11* September 27, 2015

The Accusers – Scribes and Pharisees – Matthew 23

- ✓ They Were False Teachers
- ✓ Their Lives Were a Façade
- ✓ They Were Focused on the Wrong Thing
- ✓ They Were Full of Pride
- ✓ They were Fervent About Minutia Instead of What Mattered the Most
- ✓ They Failed to See Who Jesus Was

The Adulterers – A Man and A Woman

- ✓ Their Flesh Was Chasing a Fantasy
- ✓ They Were Found Out
- ✓ They Were At Fault
- ✓ They Had Failed to Follow the Law
- ✓ They Couldn't Finagle Their Way Out
- ✓ They Were Forced to Suffer the Consequences
- ✓ Their Fate Was in the Hands of Jesus

The Almighty God – Jesus

- ✓ Jesus Takes Fear & Failure and Turns Into Freedom
- ✓ Jesus Forgives & Forgets
- ✓ Jesus Says Forge a New Future

- ✓ Jesus is Forthright
- ✓ Jesus Isn't Flippant About Sin
- ✓ Jesus' Fingers Write in the Sand – Not Guilty
- ✓ Jesus is a Friend & Our Father

The Accused Becomes the Accepted

- ✓ They Live in Amazement
- ✓ They Love to Abide
- ✓ They Finally See They Are Accepted

The Gospel Prayer

“In Christ, there is nothing I can do that would make You love me more and nothing I have done that makes You love me less. Your presence & approval are all I need for everlasting joy. As you have been to me, so I will be to others. As I pray, I'll measure Your compassion by the cross and Your power by the resurrection.”

May the Words ACCEPTED HERE be written over the Doorway of Petal First Baptist Church!

You and I are acceptable to God not because of who we are but because of Who He is and what He has done on our behalf!

No matter who you are, where you've come from, where you've been, what you've done, you are accepted by Jesus and by us.

We also know that doesn't mean that all that we do or have done is acceptable but we are accepted.

Because we are accepted then our deepening and growing desire out of our love for the Lord is to live in such a way that is pleasing and acceptable to the Him!

GOSPEL REVOLUTION

“The Power to Change”

John 8:1-11

September 27, 2015 A.M. Service

As we continue through the Gospel Revolution, we are on this journey – taking one step at the time – discovering that how live out the Gospel depends on how we view the Gospel. It really boils down to the difference between religion and a relationship and this becomes even clear today as we talk about the Power to Change. The words we have used so far are **ABIDE & AMAZED**. Our call as believers is so crystal clear yet because we are wired to do before we become, we jump into doing religious stuff for Jesus hoping to earn our acceptance when the call from Jesus is simply to Abide. It's in that abiding, in that relationship of receiving from the Lord, (spending time with Him, in His Word, prayer, and listening) it is hear that we come to understand He is far more interested in what we are becoming than what we are doing. And then we see more clearly that the more we become like Him the more that we will do for Him. The next step was **Standing in Amazement** at how amazing and awesome our God truly is and yet how He loves each of us intimately and completely. And we are amazed at what He has done on our behalf and the more of that we let in the more we desire to be like Him and we become zealous for good deeds, desiring to live a godly life and deny the ungodly culture of this world and seek hard after Him! So we've prayed thus far – Lord help me to Abide more and more in you and the more I abide the more amazed I become at you and the more amazed I become at you I want to love you and please your heart and follow after you.

The next step is another piece of this puzzle and one that helps us with perspective. **Let me ask this question: How do you approach someone that you don't know and not sure how they will react about something versus somebody that you already know and you know they will accept you no matter what you do or what you tell them?** How you and I answer this is very important! I guarantee you it is radically different. This leads us then to understand what we are talking about today and

that is the power to change – the power to change our lives!
Great question to ask – Where does the power to change come from?
Where do we find the ability, the power, the way to change our lives, our circumstances, and most importantly our hearts? Most everybody realizes their need for change or sometimes as in the case of this story it is forced upon her by the circumstances of her life but as we will see it is in the story that we find the answer we all so desperately need and want and desire – it is here where we find the true power to change! It isn't found in a list of do's and don'ts. It isn't found in religion as Jesus clearly taught to His disciples but instead it is found in one word – A Relationship!

Today we put another A word – the Word Accepted vs the word Accused.

The Accusers – Scribes and Pharisees – Matthew 23 23:1-12

They were trying to trick Jesus once again and force Him into a corner to either proclaim the law was not valid and she was not guilty (which meant He would have been openly breaking the law of Moses and thus subject to arrest) or she was guilty and deserving of death which would then violate the Roman law and cause them to take her to the Romans (the sinners and publicans would have no doubt abandoned him and would never accepted His gracious message of mercy and forgiveness.) They thought they finally had Jesus this time. But as we will see they didn't! They were the Keepers of the Jewish Religion which is what it had become, nothing more than dead religion.

The problem is religion can tell us to get better; but only the gospel actually gives us the power to be better. The gospel produces Christians; law produces Pharisees. They might be Pharisees who fast twice a week, tithe their spices and cumin, and agree to walk only a certain amount of steps on the Sabbath; or, they might be Pharisees who give away lots of money, go on mission trips, and evangelize everything that moves. Either way, though, they are only Pharisees. Their focus is on external change while their hearts are filled with corruption.

Jesus Called Them Hypocrites, Blind Guides, Fools, Serpents, & Brood of Vipers

- ✓ **They Were False Teachers** – They led people astray
- ✓ **Their Lives Were a Façade** - They didn't live what they were teaching
- ✓ **They Were Focused on the Wrong Thing** was on the outside and not the inside – it was all a show Hearts Weren't Right - He told them in the OT- I desire you heart, not your sacrifices Motives Were Impure They made it about the Law of God instead of Loving the God who gave the law.
- ✓ **They Were Full of Pride** – loved the titles, and the seats of honor and they thought they did no wrong – above the law really – ready to judge and accuse others
- ✓ **They were Fervent About Minutia Instead of What Mattered the Most** – they had added thousands of traditions and ridiculous ways that the law had to be observed – down to how many steps you could take on the Sabbath day as an example – that wasn't what mattered the most – it was the Sabbath that mattered.
- ✓ **They Failed to See Who Jesus Was**

“You are like whitewashed tombs, which appear beautiful on the outside, but inside are full of dead men's bones and every impurity” (Matthew 23:27).

The Adulterers – A Man and A Woman

(Please note that we can put any sin in here – this is given as an example and not a message on adultery though that certainly is a point to be taken here)

- ✓ **Their Flesh Was Chasing a Fantasy, an Illusion**
- ✓ **They Were Fount Out**
- ✓ **They Were At Fault**
- ✓ **They Had Failed to Follow the Law** – They Ignored the Warning They Had Wandered Away - Lost Sight of Right Way
- ✓ **They Couldn't Finagle Their Way Out**
- ✓ **They Were Forced to Suffer the Consequences**
- ✓ **Their Fate Was in the Hands of Jesus** – No better place to be!

The Almighty God – Jesus

✓ **Jesus Takes Fear & Turns Into Freedom**

By pointing out to the crowd – if you’ve never committed this sin, then go ahead and cast the first stone! Let’s be clear, here Jesus wasn’t saying that we can’t confront someone about sin in their lives. What is He saying is how we go about doing it! Grace vs judgement

✓ **Jesus Forgives & Forgets**

We tend to reverse the order of those two phrases. We like to say, “If you will go and sin no more, then I will accept you.” Only the power of grace, however, can break the power of sin.

✓ **Jesus Says Forge a New Future Go Your Way - Don’t stay here, and don’t live in this any longer!**

✓ **Jesus is Forthright**

He doesn’t mince any words – He calls it what it is. It is sin.

Jesus was interested in the heart

He doesn’t excuse the sin but neither does He condemn her

He accepts her but doesn’t accept what she was doing. She was accepted but her actions were not acceptable. Big difference!

✓ **Jesus Isn’t Flippant about Sin, He is Firm & we still have to deal with the consequences of our sin but He is faithful to walk through it with us.**

✓ **Jesus Fingers Write in the Sand – Not Guilty – Accepted**

She is able to hear the words of Paul later in [Romans 8:1](#) – follows [Romans 7:14-25](#)

✓ **Jesus is a Friend & Our Father**

Most of us feel closer to God when we have lived victoriously and farther from Him when we are struggling. This shows that we are still basing our acceptance on what we do rather than on what Christ has done

The Accused Becomes the Accepted

✓ **They Live in Amazement**

How could they not have been so completely amazed – especially the woman, she was in a instance it appeared about to die and then Jesus comes along and literally saves her life! She was like wow. I’ve never been treated like this before

- ✓ **They Love to Abide** When we find Jesus and amazed at who He is and what He has done for us – our natural response should be to want to abide with them – to be around them and spend time with them and getting to know them better!
- ✓ **They Finally See They Are Accepted**
Christ's righteousness given to us as a gift breaks the power of sin in our lives. Religion tells us, "If you change, you will be accepted."
The gospel tells us, "Because you have been accepted, you can change."
God's acceptance of us in Christ becomes the power that liberates us from sin; it is not a reward for having liberated ourselves.

Let us declare over Petal FBC today – Accepted! You and I are acceptable to God not because of who we are but because of Who He is and what He has done on our behalf! Again, doesn't mean that all that we do is acceptable but we are accepted. But because we are accepted then our deepening and growing desire out of our love for the Lord is to be about doing those things and living in a way that is acceptable to the Lord! ILLUS: Guys from Christian Services & maybe some of us too! It's time to stop hiding and run into the arms of Jesus and we as the body of Christ begin to love and minister to one another out of our own brokenness!

ILLUS: LesMiserables Movie Clip

Can't you see this lady never being the same again – perhaps she goes home and her marriage is saved, and she was never the same again. Why? Because she was redeemed, restored, and made right with her Savior and because of that love and acceptance she was never the same again! May it be true with us too!