John
Series: **Unfazed: The Overwhelming Life**
July 24, 2016
Message Four:

Mission Accomplished!

John 8:1-11

Mention YouVersion –

Mention 21 days of prayer/fasting – mention Tues-Thur 7 a.m.

Offering –

Intro: Passages we have been looking at this month from John go hand in hand with other passages in Scripture –

Romans 8:37 – No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

NIV - No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

The Message - None of this fazes us because Jesus loves us.

We've been looking at how Jesus dealt with opposition as a model for how we can deal with opposition – in particular, the opposition that we face and will face for being open, Biblical followers of Jesus Christ.

Last week:

What we need to be unfazed and overwhelm any opposition:

- **The Holy Spirit**
- **Clarity**
- **An Open Heart**

After all the opposition – from His own brothers – from the Jewish religious leaders, Jesus gets His message through to at least one person – and accomplishes the ultimate mission –

Because Jesus was unfazed in the face of opposition – even from His own brothers – from everyone in power – He stayed focused, unfazed, and this one person's life was forever changed –

Read all of the passage to start -

John 8:1-11 - 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 the Pharisees brought a woman who had been 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 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, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!" 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 the woman, "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."

Big Idea: We will accomplish our mission of loving people to Jesus if we will be wiser than the opposition.

T.S.: Three winning ways in which Jesus responded to the opposition's trap:

1. Jesus responded thoughtfully.

John 8:1-6 - 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 the Pharisees brought a woman who had been 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 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.

He didn't respond immediately – He took His time.

Sometimes, the problem with our responses is simply that they are too fast!

- Someone says something, we feel we have to speak back.

We don't have to speak back!

- I don't have to respond to every stupid facebook post!
- I don't have to convince people online that they are wrong and I am right!
- I don't have to bring out sinners and expose them in front of everyone – that doesn't put me on Jesus' team, that puts me on the Pharisee's team!
- I don't have to respond to every email – certainly not immediately!

So many ways in which we just need to stop, take a deep breath, and don't respond right away!

I have not only learned this from the Scripture – I have learned this from my own stupidity!

And I have made enemies instead of friends by responding too quickly.

So – when someone speaks against you or against what you believe – don't believe you have to respond immediately – even in a situation that seems pressing –

They had just brought this woman – she's laying in the street – what's the answer?

Jesus: what's your hurry?

James 1:19 - Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.

Fruit of the Spirit is patience …

2. Jesus responded with wisdom.

John 8:7-9 - They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, "All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!" 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.

What wisdom! And the wisdom of Christ is available to us!

First, when we immerse ourselves in the Word – when we are always in the Word – it will be in our minds when we need to have a response.

ABC's of receiving wisdom -

- **Ask**

James 1:5 - If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.

Here's what can happen if you're in a hurry and you fail to ask for wisdom:

An elderly woman stood on a busy street corner. She was scared to cross because there was no traffic signal. She waited … and waited … Finally a gentleman came up beside her and asked, "May I cross over with you? She was relieved! She said, "Thank you!" and took the man's arm!

They took a dangerous path, zig-zagging through the traffic. The man seemed to be confused. They dodged cars, almost got hit and when they finally reached the curb, the old woman yelled, "You almost got us killed! You walk like you're blind!"

"I am!" he replied. "That's why I asked if I could cross with you!"

Sometimes we need to stop – not respond in a hurry – listen to the Lord put a word in our heart – then respond with wisdom –

- **Believe**

If you don't believe God will give you wisdom when you ask, you won't recognize it when it comes.

Hebrews 11:1 – Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Believe that when you ask for wisdom you will receive it from God!

- **Consult godly counsel -** James 3:17

Seek out people who have been following God and have experience going through situations where they needed His wisdom –

James 3:17 - But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere.

Wisdom from God will agree with the Word of God – if it doesn't agree with the Word of God it is dangerous and foolish –

When you consult the Word, consult the Lord is prayer, consult godly experienced counsel – then do you have peace about the course you feel led to take?

We will accomplish our mission of loving people to Jesus if we will be wiser than the opposition.

- Jesus responded thoughtfully
- Jesus responded with wisdom

3. Jesus responded with love.

John 8:10-11 - Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, "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."

He forgave – there can't be forgiveness without an acknowledgement of sin. Jesus acknowledged her sin. She acknowledged her sin.

But Jesus responded in love.

And because He had love, He spoke the truth. Sin no more.

You can't keep doing this.

Yes – you are part of the reason you are here. You sinned. You've been dragged out in the street and embarrassed because of what you did.

This wasn't all the work of the Pharisee's – if she hadn't committed adultery she wouldn't be there –

She couldn't complain no matter what happened – but Jesus responded in love.

- Sin was acknowledged
- Consequences were accepted
- Teaching and warning was given.

All of this is part of the response and message of love – and all of this was done and given in love.

This has got to be our focus – whether or not the culture changes, we go to the one that is hurting – the one that is broken – the one that needs Jesus – the one that the culture has chewed up and spit out –

It looked fun for a while – everyone else was doing it – they don't know any other way to live – Then it all turns on them –

They are dragged out …

- The Law said the punishment was stoning
- Where's the male? A set up? A Pharisee?

They would do anything to incriminate Jesus –

Those who are fighting against us have no rules –

We must remember who we are fighting against –

Ephesians 6:12 - For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

This is also who is fighting against those in the condition of this woman.

It was they fighting against her – tore her to pieces – messed up her life beyond belief – it was almost over –

They made one miscalculation – THEY actually brought her to Jesus!

Who is the enemy bringing to us?

Concl: We will accomplish our mission of loving people to Jesus if we will be wiser than the opposition.

1. **Jesus responded thoughtfully.**
2. **Jesus responded with wisdom.**
3. **Jesus responded with love.**

Invitation: Don't bow your heads – look at me -

Have you come today hurting? Have you come today – maybe you feel like you were dragged here? Have you come guilty of sin?

Have you come today hurting – in need to Jesus – His love – Have you lived according to the ways of this culture, and all it has done is given

you pain – chewed you up and spit you out – left you with all kinds of difficulty, hardship, pain and hurt?

Maybe it was fun for a while – you've had a blast – and lots of others having fun along with you – maybe you've never known there was any other choices – any other way to live. But it has all turned on you.

There is an area in which we are pro-choice – you can choose to not have to live in a way that destroys you. Some don't know there is any other choice – I'm here to tell you there is! There is a better way!

Do you feel like this woman? Somehow you've been drug out – your sins have been on parade for all to see – the embarrassment is almost like death – maybe you'd rather die – coming here has been the hardest thing for you.

Maybe some think you deserve great punishment for what you've done. Maybe you feel like you've been set up.

You've been brought to Jesus today!

Prayer –

Maybe you're here and you're a believer – and it's so hard because you've been through a situation with family, work, friends, school, neighborhood – but you feel like you're always being set up. You've been attacked by people who hate everything you believe in when it comes to your faith and living your faith. They have no rules.

Remember who you're fighting against -

You've been brought to Jesus today!

Prayer –

Baptism – This is the first thing God asks of us when we believe in Him.

Faith is a very private thing – that at some point needs to go public.

Baptism is the wedding band of Christianity. I wear a band – it doesn't make me married – but it lets everyone know that I belong to Sharon –

This is the reason for water. It is symbol – it is not magic – not holy – but it symbolizes that my life was dirty and it symbolized what Jesus did for you and me.

There used to be a tradition where people would go to a river to be baptized - wear dirty garments over clean white garments – and as they were baptized, they would take off the out dirty garments and just let them float down the river – they would be left wearing the clean white garments.

That shows what Jesus did for us.

Songs – I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

Amazing Grace

Song: I Have Decided to Follow Jesus – was written by a guy who was inspired by a story of a man from India who began to follow Jesus –

There it was a crime to become a Christian – he was threatened with death in the town square. He said, “I have decided to follow Jesus.”

They executed his wife – “Though none go with me…”

The village was so impacted, the chief and everyone in the village decided to follow Jesus as well.