

**Episode:** One-Hit Wonders No. 11

**Narrator:** The adulterous woman

**Primary Scriptures:** John 8:2-11

**Story Summary:** Jesus is asked to judge a woman caught in the act of adultery

**Location:** Jerusalem, Israel

**Time:** Circa 29 AD

**Suggested Memory Scriptures** John 8:11

Admittedly, the video episode of *Caught* contains a significant amount of speculation about the background of the woman caught in the act of adultery. The episode is meant to portray one of many, many possibilities.

John wrote, "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?'"

John gives no indication whether the woman was set up or if the leaders were trying to take advantage of a real event in order to trap Jesus. In either case, the leaders have no concern for the woman and are intent on putting Jesus on the horns of a dilemma.

The leaders misrepresent the command of Moses found in Leviticus 20:10 and Deuteronomy 22:22, which says if a man is found sleeping with another man's wife, both the man and woman must die. Moses did not say the manner of death should be stoning and the leaders only brought the woman involved, not the man.

Rather than quibble about the details of the Law, Jesus goes straight to the heart of the matter. He is much more concerned about the leaders being merciful and having soft hearts, and the woman being reconciled to society and God, than he is about punishing the woman. He says, "Let any one of you who is without sin cast the first stone."

What is meant to be a trap for Jesus ends up being a trap for the leaders. The phrasing of the leaders' question puts them in an untenable position. If they choose not to stone the woman, then they are violating the Law of Moses. If they choose to stone the woman, they lose all credibility with the crowds who know without doubt the leaders are sinful men. The oldest leaders quickly recognize their dilemma and leave quickly before the situation gets worse.

In a sense, this is the beginning of the end for the enforcement of the Law of Moses. Jesus completes the process by fulfilling the law as he said he would.

The story ends not by Jesus pardoning the woman or justifying her actions, but by telling her to quit sinning. His tough love stance proves his love for her.