



RIVERSIDE
CHURCH

Your story matters.



Caught in the *Act*

Pastor Tom Lundeen
March 14th, 2021

MYRC.CHURCH

"Caught in the *act*"

Pastor Tom Lundeen



Your story ^{REALLY} matters.

MESSAGE NOTES

What did Jesus have to say to ordinary people like you and me?

What did _____ in people's lives?

Getting *caught in the act* can be both a very uncomfortable but also very _____ experience.

What does this uncomfortable and _____ encounter in John reveal to us about being *caught in the act*?

1. It Seems _____ to Catch Other People *in the Act*

Note [John 8:1-4](#)

These religious leaders were very aware of the wrongdoing and _____ of others.

They also wanted to try to catch _____ *in the act* (note [John 8:5-6a](#)).

It seemed that Jesus' only choices were to defy _____...or defy God's _____.

It seems easier...to point out and display others' failures, to _____ ourselves favorably in light of wrongdoing and sins of others, to try to trap people through moral dilemmas and use those moral dilemmas to _____ other people and circumstances to our own advantage.

2. Eventually _____ Catches All of Us *in the Act*

Note [John 8:6b](#)

Jesus never _____ this woman's guilt.

But Jesus also intended to catch the religious leaders _____, too (note [John 8:7-8](#)).

We are not told what Jesus wrote, but we can be sure He wasn't _____!

Note [John 8:9](#)

They had discovered that _____ is humanity's great equalizer and common denominator... (note [Numbers 32:23](#))

3. Jesus Has a _____ for *Catching Us in the Act*

Note [John 1:17](#); [3:17](#)

Jesus' purpose...isn't simply to make us feel bad or give us a terminal case of the _____ and never-relenting shame; but it's to reveal our need and open our hearts and minds to a _____ offered by Jesus.

Note [John 8:10-11](#)

This woman had _____ for sin and she desperately needed to repent and be forgiven.

The same was true with all of her _____.

Your story really does matter to *Jesus*:

- On a day still to come, God promised to _____ this world and every person will stand before God and give an account of their lives.
- Until that day, however, God's purpose is to _____, transform, and reunite this world to God.
- Have we been *caught in the act* (or should we be)?
- _____ Jesus will.
- ...let's allow Jesus to accomplish His purpose of *catching us in the act* (repentance, forgiveness, and transformation).

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!

Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital or in person).*

***[Myrc.link/connect](#) or text *riverside* to 94000**



SMALL GROUP
guide on the back

SG

Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Icebreaker: Sunday is the beginning of Daylight Savings Time. Do you have a good story to tell when you forgot to “spring ahead?”

1. In [John 8:1-4](#), the religious leaders were trying to trap Jesus as they pointed out the failure of this woman. Why is it easy to fixate on the shortcomings of other people?
2. Pastor Tom pointed out that “Jesus never denies this woman’s guilt.” Why is that significant?
3. What do you think Jesus wrote in the dust that day?
(see [John 8:5-9](#))
4. How do guard against keeping our sin in the dark in light of [Numbers 32:23](#)?
5. Pastor Tom affirmed [John 1:17](#) and [John 3:17](#) when he explained that Jesus’ purpose for “catching us in the act” is to show our need for Him and to move us toward repentance, forgiveness and transformation. How have you experienced this when Jesus “caught you in the act?”
6. Read [John 8:10-11](#) to see what Jesus asks of the woman. What is He asking of you today?

Day One: [John 13](#)

Day Two: [John 14](#)

Day Three: [John 15](#)

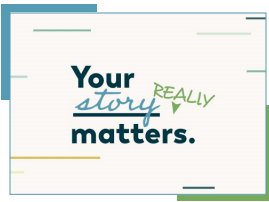
Day Four: [John 16](#)

Day Five: [John 17](#)

PERSONAL GUIDE

"Caught in the *act*"

Pastor Tom Lundeen



MESSAGE NOTES

What did Jesus have to say to ordinary people like you and me?

What did He do in people's lives?

Getting *caught in the act* can be both a very uncomfortable but also very revealing experience.

What does this uncomfortable and awkward encounter in John reveal to us about being *caught in the act*?

1. It Seems Easier to Catch Other People *in the Act*

Note John 8:1-4

These religious leaders were very aware of the wrongdoing and failures of others.

They also wanted to try to catch Jesus in the act (note John 8:5-6a).

It seemed that Jesus' only choices were to defy Rome...or defy God's law.

It seems easier...to point out and display others' failures, to compare ourselves favorably in light of wrongdoing and sins of others, to try to trap people through moral dilemmas and use those moral dilemmas to manipulate other people and circumstances to our own advantage.

2. Eventually Jesus Catches All of Us *in the Act*

Note John 8:6b

Jesus never denies this woman's guilt.

But Jesus also intended to catch the religious leaders *in the act*, too (note John 8:7-8).

We are not told what Jesus wrote, but we can be sure He wasn't doodling!

Note [John 8:9](#)

They had discovered that sin is humanity's great equalizer and common denominator... (note [Numbers 32:23](#))

3. Jesus Has a Purpose for *Catching Us in the Act*

Note [John 1:17](#); [3:17](#)

Jesus' purpose...isn't simply to make us feel bad or give us a terminal case of the guilties and never-relenting shame; but it's to reveal our need and open our hearts and minds to a new life offered by Jesus.

Note [John 8:10-11](#)

This woman had tested positive for sin and she desperately needed to repent and be forgiven.

The same was true with all of her accusers.

Your story really does matter to *Jesus*:

- On a day still to come, God promised to judge this world and every person will stand before God and give an account of their lives.
- Until that day, however, God's purpose is to reconcile, transform, and reunite this world to God.
- Have we been *caught in the act* (or should we be)?
- Eventually Jesus will.
- ...let's allow Jesus to accomplish His purpose of *catching us in the act* (repentance, forgiveness, and transformation).

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