

Caught in the Act X's 3

John 7:53-8:11

TRYING TO CATCH JESUS

→ This was ultimately a plan by the Pharisees to trap Jesus.

1. Larger context of John 7: The Pharisees were trying to catch, arrest, and kill Jesus. 7:1, 32, 45-52

- Note Nicodemus reappears in the story... Ref. John 3: You must be born again.

2. The Pharisees were using this situation to 'test' Jesus so they could accuse him. John 8:6

3. In order to catch Jesus, they had to devise a 'gotcha plan.'

THE WOMAN CAUGHT IN THE ACT

→ The text indicates this was an intentional "sting" operation to catch the woman in adultery.

1. The word "caught" in v.3 & 4 includes the idea of hostile intent; i.e., trying to catch someone.

2. Adultery is forbidden in the 10 Commandments. Exodus 20:14: You shall not commit adultery.

- According to Levitical Law, adultery was punishable by death.
- Leviticus 20:10: If a man commits adultery with the wife of his neighbor, both the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.

3. Under Jewish law as practiced by rabbis at the time of Christ... adultery had to be proven.

- Observe the actual act WHILE it was happening with MULTIPLE witnesses

→ i.e., In this situation, it would be almost impossible unless it was a set up.

THE PHARISEES CAUGHT IN THE ACT

1. In order to trap Jesus, the Pharisees set up a trap for this woman.

2. Where is the man involved in this situation? Curiously absent.

3. This was a set-up by the Pharisees to accomplish their own agenda at the expense of a woman.

→ This was evil.

- The real evil and sin in this situation is in the people willing to potentially sacrifice this woman's life to accomplish their own agenda.
- Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground...

JESUS AND THE WOMAN, JESUS AND YOU