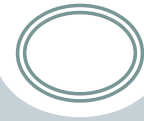


Attending to the Person

John 8:3-11



A Story of Susan and John



Bad Behaviours



³ The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, ⁴ they said to him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. ⁵ Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?”

Bad Behaviours



This woman was caught in adultery

Bad, wrong, sinful and unacceptable behaviour

Adultery of the hearts

But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. Mt 5:28

Bad Behaviours

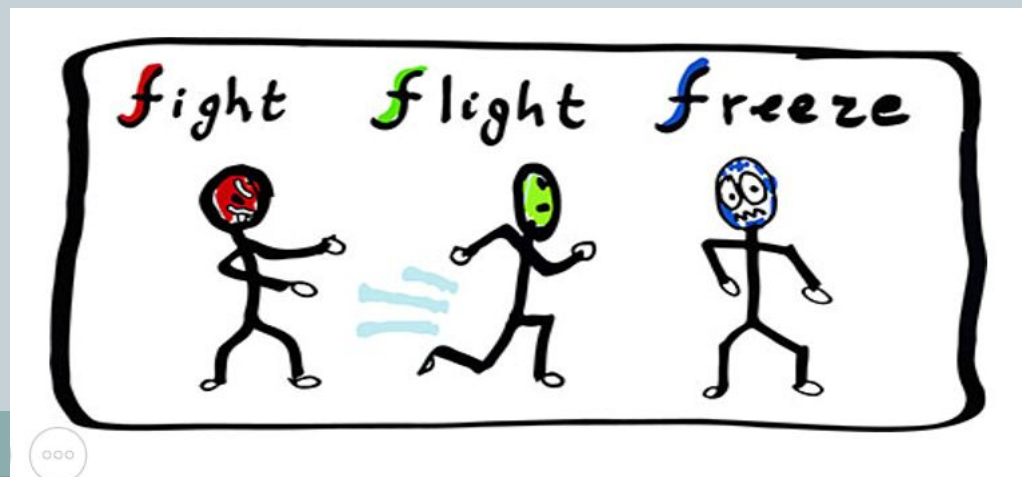
May not be adultery

Examples of bad behaviours:

Aggression, Quarreling – **Fight**

Fearful, Anxious (Irresponsible) – **Flight**

Lost, Numb (Not doing anything) - **Freeze**



Judgment and Punishment



The Scribes and Pharisees **caught** the woman
Brought her to Jesus - **accused** and **judged** her



Judgment and Punishment



Pharisees are always quick to notice bad behaviours - **judge** and **punish**

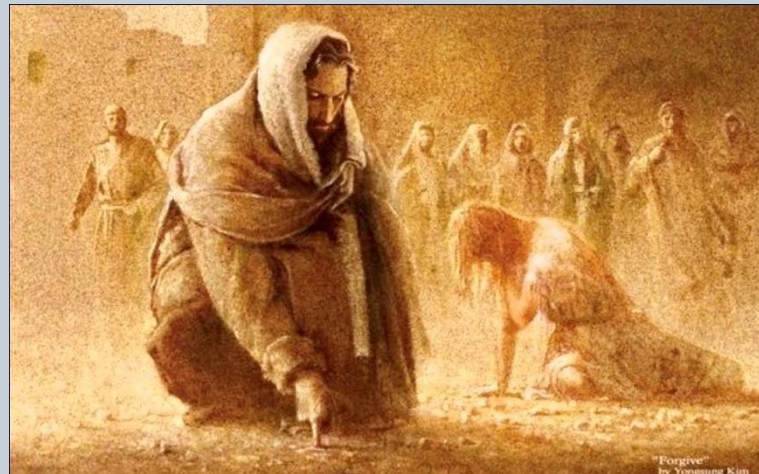
Do you have a **Pharisee** in your work place, in your home, in your church?

Are you a **Pharisee**?

A Redirection



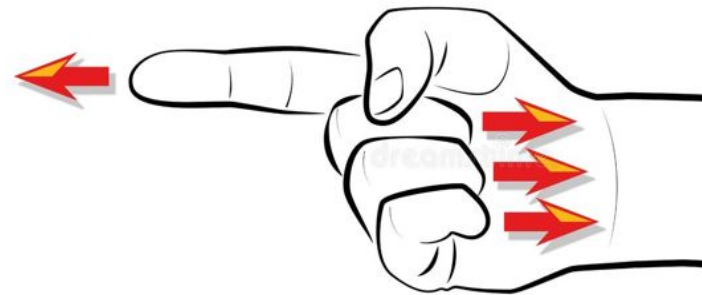
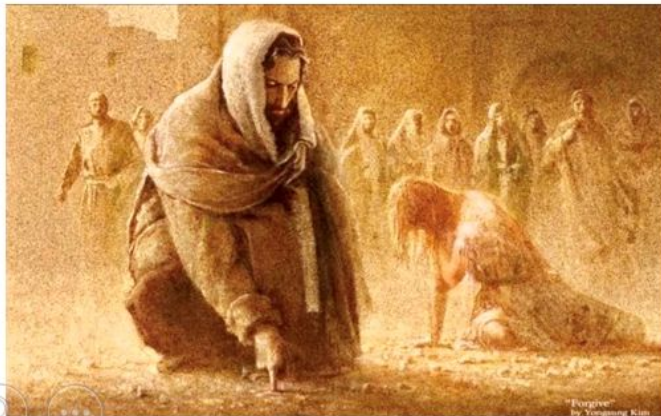
⁵ Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. **Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground.**



A Redirection



⁷ When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “**Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.**” ⁸ And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. ⁹ When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders.



Attend to the Person



⁹ ... and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. ¹⁰ Jesus straightened up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” ¹¹ She said, “No one, sir.” And Jesus said, “**Neither do I condemn you.** Go your way, and from now on **do not sin again.**”

Attend to the Person



The woman **standing before** Jesus

(middle, among, before – with)

Jesus was with the woman, not at a distance
pointing fingers

He attended to the person first instead of the bad
behaviour

Continue with Susan and John

Attend to the Person



Jesus attended to the woman first, instead of her behaviour.

Near to her to **affirm** her of her value and significance

Attend to her deepest needs and not condemning her

His acceptance, love, forgiveness, and affirmation

Only then did Jesus told her to sin no more

Ready to listen when accepted and affirmed

Bad Behaviours as Bunkers



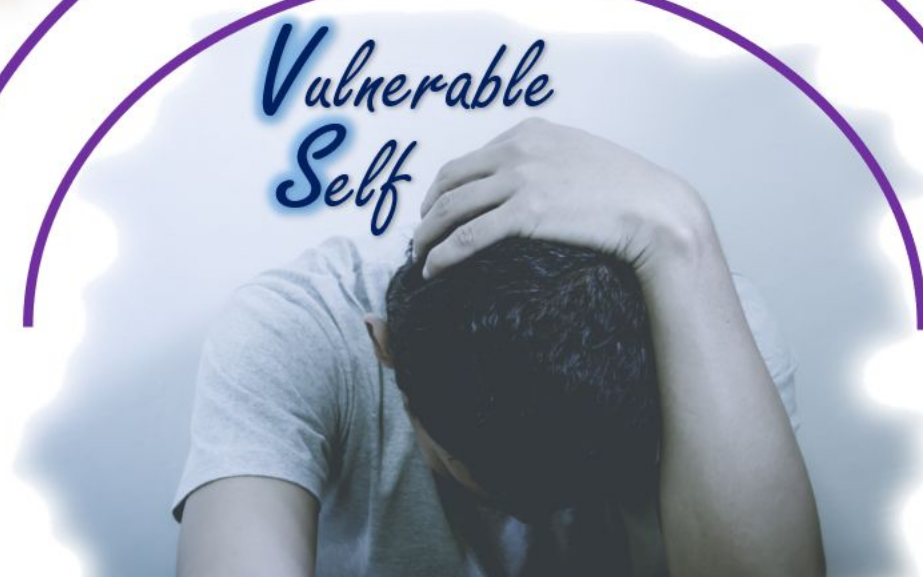
**JUDGE
PUNISH**

FIGHT

FLIGHT

FREEZE

*Vulnerable
Self*



**JUDGE
PUNISH**

**ATTEND
AFFIRM**

FIGHT

FLIGHT

FREEZE

*Vulnerable
Self*



Conclusion



But God showed His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom 5:8)

- There are bad behaviours of people all around us
- Let us not be like the Pharisees – judgmental and punitive
- Let us be like Jesus – attending and affirming