

Gamecock Devotion

#8 THE GREATEST CHAMPION NEVER CONDEMNED HIS TEAMMATES



Question: How do you feel when your teammates, co-workers, or anyone looks down on you because of a mistake you have made? What does that result in?

In life there are several dividing factors that are just natural. Some people are taller, quicker, faster, and more athletic while others are not. God made them that way and the separation from the others who aren't like them is simply natural based on their God given talents. However, the enemy also tries to create dividing factors that are not meant to be among us at all. Things such as race, money, status and popularity can sometimes become categories that divide our country rather than define it as a land of opportunity. The condemnation or approval of anyone based on what they had done or the color of their skin infuriated the greatest champion. All throughout His career He made sure He impacted everyone, and looked down upon no one, so that His purpose would unify those around Him. There will always be a difference between you and the people around you, and the champions for Christ will find a way to meet people where they are, while the rest will harp on the differences and put them down to boost themselves up.

Such was true of the story below with Jesus and the Pharisees. They thought they would trick Jesus into condemning a woman who had publicly sinned, but you cannot trick the greatest champion. He turned it back on them and changed this woman's life for the better. How many people have you seen that the world has condemned that you know you were supposed to lift up and encourage? It's not just beggars and those who everyone knows is struggling, it can also be a boss a family member or a teammate! How can we condemn our teammates when we know that we ourselves should have been condemned, but were not? Make a special effort to not to look down on anyone and reach out to those who have been pushed down by our dark world!

John 8:2-11

²At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. ³The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group ⁴and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. ⁵In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" ⁶They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. ⁷When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." ⁸Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. ⁹At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. ¹⁰Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" ¹¹"No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."