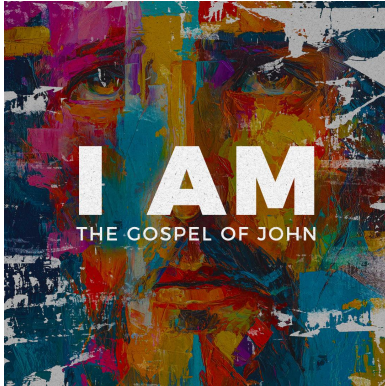


Title: The Gentleness of Jesus

Series: I Am

Speaker: Kevin Sneed

Date: August 16, 2026



Key Texts: John 7:53-8:11, Exodus 34:6-7, Matthew 11:28-30

Introduction

We all carry a picture of God that is shaped by our own limits - our impatience, our conditional love, our instinct to withhold grace until it is earned. But in John 8, when a woman caught in adultery is thrown before Jesus as a trap, Jesus reveals a God who holds justice and mercy together rather than choosing between them. He doesn't excuse her sin, and He doesn't condemn her either; He offers the same gentle, lowly heart described in Matthew 11:28-30.

Icebreaker: If someone asked you to describe what Jesus is like, what would you tell them?

Discussion Questions

1. A.W. Tozer wrote that "the most revealing thing about the Church is her idea of God." What do you think this means? What are some ways that we might often map our own views or emotional limits onto God?
2. Read **John 7:53-8:11** aloud. If you were standing out in the crowd and observing this all happen, what details do you think you would notice about Jesus? What do His actions and responses reveal about His character?
3. What do you notice about the posture of the religious leaders toward the woman, and toward Jesus?

4. Read **John 8:6-9** and **John 3:17**. Kevin pointed out that Jesus dignifies the woman, but He does not acquit her. He confronts the leaders but doesn't condone what she has done. He doesn't remove the accusation, but He does pardon her. What does this response reveal about Jesus' heart? How does this encourage you, and how might this potentially challenge your view of God?

5. The woman did not need condemnation; she just needed healing. Jesus pardons her sin and then tells her to leave her life of sin. Similarly, in Exodus, God delivers His people and then gives them the Ten Commandments. Do you have an example of your own life where the kindness of God has led you to repentance? How have you personally been confronted and changed by the gentleness of Jesus?

6. Read **Matthew 11:28-30**. It is possible that we may be carrying an image of God that is different from the inner disposition described in these verses. What image of God might you currently be carrying? Is there a different disposition or posture that you might be mapping onto God? How can our group be praying for you as you seek to renew and restore a view of God as humble and gentle?

Key Takeaways

- One of the most important questions we can ask ourselves is "What is Jesus like?"
- Jesus is the perfect representation of God's character and essence.
- God is a God who rescues and saves us. He freely gives His pardon and invites us to live a different life.
- In Jesus, both justice and mercy are reconciled.
- We can be confronted and changed by the gentleness of Jesus.

Renewing the Mind

Spend some time this week reflecting on Jesus' words in Matthew 11:28-30. Bring before God any images or assumptions you may be holding about God that keep you from acknowledging and experiencing the gentleness and humility of Jesus. Invite Him to bring healing and renewal, and to reveal His love to you. Spend some time thanking God that He is the God who can hold and extend justice and mercy simultaneously. Consider where you can make time this week, as Dane Ortlund wrote, in the unhurried quiet to consider the radiance, beauty, gentleness, and love of Christ.