

Entrapment

If they found the woman committing adultery, they must have found a man also

'The man who commits adultery with another man's wife, he who commits adultery with his neighbor's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress, shall surely be put to death'
(Lev.20:10)

Under the law both the man and the woman caught in adultery were to be put to death

'If a man is found lying with a woman married to a husband, then both of them shall die—the man that lay with the woman, and the woman'

(Deut.22:22)

But where was the man?

The whole thing was a set-up, a plot

**The woman was not the target...
Jesus was**

They wanted to entrap Him

'And many of the people believed in Him, and said, "When the Christ comes, will He do more signs than these which this Man has done?" The Pharisees heard the crowd murmuring these things concerning Him, and the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to take Him'

(John 7:30-32)

'On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified'

(John 7:37-39)

'Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why have you not brought Him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!" Then the Pharisees answered them, "Are you also deceived?"'

(John 7:45-47)

It was not unusual for Jesus and the apostles to be set up with trick questions. For example:

'Then the Pharisees went and plotted how they might entangle Him in His talk' (Matt.22:15)

'And this occurred because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage)' (Gal.2:4)

**Why did the people flock to Jesus
and not the Pharisees?**

***'He is the image of the invisible
God...'***

(Col.1:15)

***'...who being the brightness
of His glory and the express image
of His person...'***

(Heb.1:3)

**For the first time they saw what
God is really like and fell in love
with Him**

The sting

Could the love of God, as preached by Jesus and portrayed by Him, stand up against the law of God?

'O LORD, the hope of Israel, all who forsake You shall be ashamed.

"Those who depart from Me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living waters"

(Jer.17:13)

***'The memory of the righteous is blessed,
but the name of the wicked will rot'
(Prov.10:7)***

3 times we see the finger of God writing

1) The giving of the Law

' And when He had made an end of speaking with him on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses two tablets of the Testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God'
(Exod.31:18)

2) Judgment against Belshazzar,

'In the same hour the fingers of a man's hand appeared and wrote opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace; and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. Then the king's countenance changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his hips were loosened and his knees knocked against each other'

(Dan.5:5-6)

**3) In mercy and grace towards
this woman**

**'For the law was given through
Moses, *but* grace and truth came
through Jesus Christ'
(John 1:17)**

Jesus did not oppose the law:

First, not only did they not have a case because there was no man presented with whom she was accused of committing adultery; but also the law was powerless because it demands a minimum of 2-3 witnesses.

'Where are your accusers?' 'There are none, Lord.'

Second, He knew He was on His way to pay the price for this sin and every sin

'Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us'

(Rom.8:33-34)

Our Advocate will always silence our accusers

'I do not condemn you'

**The only One who was sinless and had
the right to stone the woman and her
accusers forgave her**

***'For God did not send His Son into the
world to condemn the world, but that
the world through Him might be
saved'***

(John 3:17)

God justifies the ungodly

'Go and sin no more'

Two strikes and you're out? No, He not only canceled the penalty of sin, He empowered her against the power of sin.

This corresponds to Romans 6. Grace is the only thing that save us from the penalty of sin and the power of sin.

Entrapment

**The ones they sent to arrest Jesus
ended up believing in Him**

**The one they sought to condemn was
forgiven**

**The accusers were the ones exposed,
went away unforgiven with their names
written in the earth**

'Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their own craftiness"; and again, "The LORD knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile"'

(1 Cor.3:18-20)