

Eternal Life Through Believing in Jesus

22) Jesus Is Our Advocate

***'But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.
Now early in the morning He came again into
the temple, and all the people came to Him; and
He sat down and taught them. Then the scribes
and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught
in adultery. And when they had set her in the
midst, they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman
was caught in adultery, in the very
act. Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that
such should be stoned. But what do You say?"
This they said, testing Him, that they might
have something of which to accuse Him. But
Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground
with His finger, as though He did not hear'***

(John 8:1-5)

- ✓ **The scribes and Pharisees pushed their way through the crowd and interrupted Jesus**
- ✓ **The guilt of the woman was beyond question; she was caught in the act**
- ✓ **But they didn't need to shame her publicly**
- ✓ **The standard of evidence needed to convict was very high for this crime**
- ✓ **The whole thing had to be a set-up, a plot**
- ✓ **This woman was not the target, Jesus was**
- ✓ **Why was He was being set up**

- ✓ **Because of envy. People flocked to Jesus and not the Pharisees, because He is the image of God**
- ✓ **People, for the first time, saw what God is really like. Jesus revealed the Father. *'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)**
- ✓ **That's why the temple guards did not arrest Him**
- ✓ **But herein was the sting. Could the love of God, as preached by Jesus, stand up against the law**
- ✓ **The woman's dilemma is ours. Whether she was naked or half-naked she is a picture how we all are before God in our sin. How can God show both love and justice to sinners?**

The problem is they quoted the law of Moses but with a blatant omission: Where was the man?

'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)

'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)

The man was probably let go because he was a part of the set up. Jesus stooped and wrote in the ground with His finger

'So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first." And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground' (John 8:7-8)

The law required two witnesses before its sentence could be executed (Deut. 19:15), and those witnesses must assist in carrying out the sentence

'The hands of the witnesses shall be the first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people. So you shall put away the evil from among you' (Deut.17:7)

So Jesus was saying, 'Let's proceed, but correctly. Where are the witnesses, the accusers?'

- ✓ **There is still a place for directly dealing with the sins in God's family, but it must be done in love**
- ✓ **The Greek word for *to write* is *graphein*; but here the word used is *katagrapheini*, which can mean *to write down a record against someone***
- ✓ **All judgment has been given to Jesus**
- ✓ ***'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)***
- ✓ **Either our names are written in the Lamb's book of life or in the dust of the earth**
- ✓ ***'The memory of the righteous is blessed, but the name of the wicked will rot' (Prov.10:7)***

3 times it is written that the finger of God wrote:

1) Giving 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) Here. The law was given by Moses but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ

'Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more"' (John 8:9-11)

They came to Him asking Him to act as judge, consistent with the law, and He did!

But suddenly they realized that this was not good for them. They were now more aware of their own sin than the sin of the woman

- ✓ **For once she met a man whose motive was not to use, exploit or condemn her, but to save her**
- ✓ **He didn't proclaim her innocence either. He forgave her without slighting the law or trivializing her sin. Mercy flowed out to her, yet not at the expense of justice. The grace of God never conflicts with His law, but, fulfills it. Grace reigns through righteousness**
- ✓ **Here was a concrete case of a guilty sinner leaving the presence of Christ uncondemned**
- ✓ **He was on His way to pay the price for this sin and all 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 silences our adversaries

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

'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)

***'Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more'*
Religion reverses this
Blessed are those who also do not confine us to our
past failures, for they are like Jesus**

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

The one they sought to condemn was forgiven

**The accusers were exposed, went away unforgiven
and their names are 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)