

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

The Woman Caught in Adultery

Last time...the last great day of the Feast of Tabernacles

A mind-blowing exclamation by Jesus breaking a somber moment (v37-38)

This time...after the Feast of Tabernacles, a woman is caught in adultery

We will be in John 8

7:53 - 8:1 every man went:

The unforgettable last and great day of the Feast of Tabernacles is over
Time for the thousands upon thousands of people to go home.
Including Jesus.

Yet He has no place to rest His head (Luke 9:58)
So where did He go?

After He leaves Jerusalem this time, His ministry takes Him to Perea
Then, for His final week before the Cross, He returns to Jerusalem, staying with
Mary, Martha, and Lazarus in Bethany, on the east slope of the
Mount of Olives

Is it reasonable to think Jesus stayed with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus in Bethany
on this night?

I think so

v2 He came again into the temple:

The very next morning, Jesus returns to the Temple

(up, down the Mount of Olives, across the Kidron Valley).

The city is still buzzing about yesterday, the last great day of the Feast

Breaking a solemn silence with v37-38, Jesus proclaimed to be

- The interpretation and fulfillment of The Rock of Ex 17:1-7
 - satisfaction of every person's deepest and greatest yearning...the thirst for God
 - Source of Life, everlasting life
- The interpretation and fulfillment of Is 12
 - God of Israel, the LORD JEHOVAH
 - salvation of His people, and all people
 - Holy One of Israel in the midst of them

The people are excited to hear what else Jesus has to say, so He sat down and
taught them

The people are seemingly hungry for the Word of God
Luke 5:1 as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God,
He stood by the lake of Gennesaret
This time in Jerusalem in the Temple

Into this beautiful scene...
the Good Shepherd feeding, watering, and tending His flock...
bursts the children of the devil, completely disrupting Jesus' teaching

v3-6a scribes and Pharisees brought unto Him a woman caught in adultery:
So much wrong here

1. the motives of the scribes and Pharisees –
 - a. to accuse Jesus of something worthy of justifying their desire to kill Him
 - b. to discredit Jesus publically, in the Temple before all these people gathered to hear Him teach
2. the method of the scribes and Pharisees –
 - a. to seize/apprehend a woman in the very act of adultery
 - b. to suddenly present her to Jesus for judgment

Does anybody smell a rat?

1. “taken, in the very act”

Adultery takes 2...where is the man also apprehended in the act?
This “seizure” takes place on the day after Jesus so highly
offended the scribes and Pharisees...this looks like a
set-up, entrapment by the “Jesus hunters”

2. “Moses in the Law commanded us”

Lev 20:10	adulterer AND adulteress
Deut 22:22	both

Children of the devil, twisting/distorting Scripture to suit
themselves...taking away from the Word of God

Flaming hypocrites in a heartless perversion of justice
With absolutely no regard for the life of the woman they
entrapped...dastardly and utterly wicked

3. “But what sayest Thou”

Laying a trap for Jesus

If “Stone her”, He is inciting rebellion against Rome
because only the Romans have the civil authority of
capital punishment

If mercy/forgiveness, He is anti-Law, a bona fide
Lawbreaker and Himself worthy of death

Either way, they “got Him”!

In their devilish, scheming minds, a trap with no escape!!

What is the next word?

But...

v6b But Jesus:

Man is the greatest hunter on earth...BUT he cannot hunt his Creator!

The scribes and Pharisees are trying to trap and kill

- The Son of God Who knows man’s heart, thoughts, motives
- The LORD JEHOVAH
- The Holy One of Israel in their midst
- The Salvation/YESHUA/Jesus of mankind

But Jesus...does not respond

Instead, He stooped down and wrote something in the dust and sand on the floor
of the Temple complex (probably the Court of the Gentiles)

First of all, we do not know what He wrote

Any commentary on that would be pure speculation
Where Scripture is silent, so must we be

Secondly, this is the only time we read in Scripture of Jesus writing

Thirdly, Jesus wrote in the sand with His finger

The same finger that wrote Ex 20:14 in a table of stone

Ex 31:18 written with the finger of God

Deut 9:10 written with the finger of God

Luke 11:20 if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt
the kingdom of God is come upon you

Fourthly, this “response” is not what anyone would have expected
Jesus’ silence

- captivated the attention of the people who had gathered to hear Him teach
- emboldened the wicked hypocrites, who were quick and forceful to press the issue...whereby they marched right into their own trap!

v7-8 He that is without sin...first cast a stone:

Referring to the Law regarding apostasy...spiritual adultery... (Deut 17:1-7),
Jesus turns the tables and puts the onus back on the wicked hypocrites...
and resumes silently writing in the sand

During this silence, everybody is given by God the time to reflect on their own
hearts...and repent

- the woman
- the scribes and Pharisees
- the people gathered and watching this ambush/showdown

The Words of God (v7) and the majestic silence of God (v8) were powerful

By responding as He did, Jesus easily escaped the scribes and Pharisees’
inescapable trap...and they trapped themselves

Rather than being discredited before the people gathered in the Temple and being
charged with one of two death-worthy crimes, Jesus publically discredits
the scribes and Pharisees and exposes their wickedness and hypocrisy

v9 convicted by conscience:

Man is created in the image of God

Man, unlike the animals, has a conscience...the awareness of God and the
morality of God written in their hearts

Jesus’ piercing words convicted the dastardly scribes and Pharisees

From “We got Him! There’s no way out”

To “We’ve been got! There’s no way out”

From the thrill of victory to the agony of defeat...just that quickly

The tables suddenly turned, there was no escaping either the Word of God or
the intense glare of the people gathered to hear Jesus teach...
all eyes were on them while Jesus stooped and wrote

As the time passed...I'm sure it seemed like time had stood still...the pressure on the scribes and Pharisees of Jesus' resumed silence and the people's probing eyes increased radically with every passing second
The discomfort level became unbearable, one man at a time

They came to discredit, embarrass, and charge Jesus with a crime worthy of death...they slink away having been discredited, embarrassed, and exposed by Jesus

Starting with their leaders, the scribes and Pharisees retreated from the extreme heat of this scheme gone wrong (or gone right, as the case may be)
The children of the devil (called generation of vipers by both John the Baptist and Jesus) try to slither under a rock unnoticed

In the end, when the accusers (of the woman and Jesus) had all left, only the accused (the woman and Jesus) remained...
in the midst of all the people gathered to hear Jesus teach and who had all observed this incredible showdown

Sinner and Savior are alone

v10-11 where are those thine accusers...Neither do I...sin no more:
When the snakes were gone, Jesus stood up to face the publically humiliated adulteress

“Woman, where are your accusers?
Has no man condemned you (to death, v5)?”

The woman's reply is that of a humbled and repentant sinner

“No, Lord.”
Did not say Jesus or Master or Prophet
Said, “kurios”...Lord

Jesus (the Judge of unrepentant sinners and the Kinsman-Redeemer of repentant sinners) says something we need to understand

“Neither do I condemn you (to death).”
Did Jesus condone or turn a blind eye to adultery?
Is the adulteress getting off Scot-free?

John 3:16-18

Jesus/Yeshua/Salvation is salvation from the condemnation of sin,
exposed by the Law

Rom 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

Rom 8:1 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness

Go and sin no more.”

Given mercy...but the gift is not to be abused or neglected
Forgiven...but forgiveness is not a license to keep sinning
A change is required...action, lifestyle

Rom 6:1-2 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

John 5:14 Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee

The woman was at death's doorstep...
now she is redeemed and alive forevermore!

Application

In the showdown in this account...

Scribes and Pharisee (religion)	vs	Jesus...Lord
the wicked		the Righteous
the foolish		the wise
darkness		Light
man		God

can we see ourselves?

1. The woman: We all have been caught in the act, sinning against our Maker

- when I was a child:
“What are you doing, young man!?”
“Nothing...” with my hand in the cookie jar...
- true story in Southern California:
A couple went to a fast food chicken place to get a box of chicken for a picnic at the beach.
In the meantime, the store manager was preparing to make a deposit run to the bank, and put the cash in a chicken box so as to look inconspicuous.
The couple got to the beach, only to find that their box contained cash.
They decided to take it back.
When they got there, the police and the media were there, along with a suddenly overjoyed and relieved store manager.
The store manager wanted to bring the cameras over in appreciation for their honesty...”I don’t want to because the woman with me is not my wife.”
Caught in the act!

Lesson: There is nowhere to hide from the all-seeing God...our sin WILL find us out

2. The scribes and the Pharisees: Have we ever tried to “get one over on” the Lord?

- use Scripture to justify our sin
- reason/pray amiss that we may consume it upon our lusts (James 4)

Lesson:

- trick questions fired at Jesus always boomerang
- Jesus never loses a “Sword fight”
- the unrighteous who dig a pit for the righteous fall into their own pit
- the trappers end up trapping themselves

3. The woman: not condemned, mercifully forgiven, and admonished/warned to sin no more
And in that we must...repent and rejoice!

Rom 3:10

Rom 3:23

Rom 5:1

Rom 6:23

Rom 5:20-21

Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound.
But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord

Prov 10:11a	The mouth of a righteous <i>man is</i> (Jesus) a well of life
Prov 3:18	(Wisdom)...is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her
Prov 10:12	Hatred stirs up strifes: but love covers all sins
Prov 17:9a	He that covers a transgression seeks love
James 5:20	he which converts the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins
Prov 9:6	Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding

Sinners, backsliders...

You are alone before Jesus

He knows everything, even that which you do not want Him to know

Agree with Him about your sin

Receive the gift He wants to give you in exchange for your sin

Mercy...but the gift is not to be abused or neglected

Forgiveness...but that is not a license to keep sinning

Newness of life...requiring a change on your part, a change in action/lifestyle

In Him, there is no condemnation

Without Him, inescapable condemnation

Saints...

Live the Word

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me

When we fail, 1 John 1:9