

Difficult Texts In The Bible

The Adulterous Woman

(Jn 8:2-11)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening
 - a. Greeting...
2. It is time to start a new series of lessons on "Difficult Texts In The Bible."
 - a. We finished up our series on Apologetics.
 - b. We will begin by examining biblical account in **John 8:2-11** often called the "Adulterous Woman."
3. The adulterous woman has long been a situational ethics supposed "proof text."
 - a. Situational ethics simply means that situations make for excuse to break the moral laws of God and be "ok" in doing so.
 - i. Example: A woman comes screaming help down the apartment complex hall way and you go help her as she comes in the room. Her husband soon is banging on every door seeing if anyone saw where she went. When he comes to your room and asks if you have seen her you lie and say no for her safety.
 - ii. Situation Ethics says this would be justified because of the situation. However God says all lying is sin.
 - b. Thus you have those that hold to this doctrine or idea who misuse and abuse these verses by saying that Jesus showed that no one is to judge others because they have sinned.
4. Let us examine this biblical account to see if Jesus was simply living in the moment or situation or if He followed the scriptures.

I. The Biblical Account

- A. Jesus had been in the temple teaching (**Jn 7:14ff**)
 1. He was teaching in the temple as the Pharisees were wanting to kill Him. (vs 19)
 2. They couldn't decide if He was from God or not.
 - i. Some said He was a prophet.
 - ii. Some said He was the Christ.
 - iii. Some could believe either since He was from Galilee.
 - iv. Some wanted to arrest Him but didn't.
- B. The next day after leaving the temple and heading to the Mount of Olives Jesus goes back to the temple. (**Jn 8:1-2**)
 1. The people come back to hear Him and He teaches them. (2)
 2. The Pharisees and scribes bring "drag" a woman to Jesus. (3)
 3. They explain that the woman had been "caught" in the act of adultery (4)
 4. They explain that the Law of Moses commanded one be stoned. (5)
 5. They said this to test Jesus. (6)
 6. Jesus bends down and writes in the ground. (6)
 7. They keep on asking about the stoning and Jesus stands up and answers them. (7)
 8. They let the woman there with Jesus only. (9)
 9. Jesus tells the woman to leave and sin no more. (10-11)

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II. Breaking Down This Biblical Account

- A. Keep in mind that the Pharisees were wanting to kill Jesus
 - 1. They were already worked up and wanted to find any excuse to kill Him.
 - i. **Jn 7:19** "Did not Moses give you the law, yet none of you keeps the law? Why do you seek to kill Me?"
- B. Jesus is teaching the people
 - 1. The Pharisees and scribes want Jesus dead yet He is back again and people are flocking to hear Him once again.
 - 2. No doubt this makes the Pharisees mad.
- C. The Pharisees & scribes bring the woman
 - 1. First let it be said they had no regard for the woman at all.
 - i. They drug her to Jesus.
 - 2. They then, trying to test Jesus, telling Him what the Law of Moses says concerning the punishment for adultery.
 - i. They are talking about **Dt 22:22** "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; so you shall put away the evil from Israel."¹
 - ii. Now they are testing Jesus to see if He will stone her or relent to Roman law.
 - a. They think they have Him between a rock & a hard place.
 - 3. Some things to consider concerning **Dt 22:22** and the Pharisees use of it at this time.
 - i. They were no longer practicing this law at this time.
 - a. The "Roman law prohibited them [Jews] from executing criminals without their permission, and the Romans didn't deem adultery as a capital crime." (Notes On John "The Period Of Conflict" by Parrish, Eddie pg. 57)
 - ii. They also had no desire really to kill this woman they just wanted to test Jesus to see if He would.
 - 4. They keep asking Jesus about what to do with the woman (7)
 - i. Jesus states, "...He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first." (7)
 - a. Now this has led many to suggest that only the perfect can judge ie the Godhead and since we are not perfect we cannot judge anyone.

¹ All scriptures are in the NKJV unless otherwise noted.

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- D. Did Jesus show here that the one who sins "cannot" judge others who sins?
1. Many have used this verse and said "he who is without sin, cast the first stone" toward someone that is trying to teach the other they need to be righteous.
 2. Jesus did not in any way imply this however with His statements to the Pharisees and scribes.
 - i. Look again at **Dt 22:22** again.
 - a. "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; so you shall put away the evil from Israel."
 - ii. Notice who is to be stoned if caught in adultery...both the man and the woman.
 - a. If they caught the woman in adultery they would have caught the man in it as well, where is he?
 - iii. Also see who is to throw the first stone.
 - a. **Dt 17:7** "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."
 - b. It was the witnesses to the sin that were to cast the first stone.
 1. Jesus was not a witness to this.
 3. Jesus was simply forcing the Jews to obey the commands of God.
 - i. It was the Pharisees and scribes that were not willing to obey God and incur the wrath of Rome.
 - ii. Jesus neither broke the law nor bent the law in anyway.
 - a. **I Pt 2:22** "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"
 - b. **He 4:15** "For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin."
 - c. **I Jn 3:4** "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness."
 1. "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." (KJV)
 4. Thus Jesus was not saying that people cannot judge other people.
 - i. **Mt 7:1, 4-5** "Judge not, that you be not judged...4 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? 5 Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and **then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.**"
 - a. **Mt 7:15** as a cliff note. How can you know a person is a false teacher without judging him/her?

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III. So Can Situations "Ever" Make A Sin "Not A Sin?"

- A. The short answer is...No!!!!
 - 1. There is no situation that will justify someone breaking Christ's law (**Ga 6:2**).
- B. How many situations can people really come up with though?
 - 1. Questions I have heard that were used to justify situational ethics.
 - i. What if my wife asks me if she looks fat in an outfit and she does? I would be justified in saying no right?
 - a. No lying is a sin.
 - 1. **Co 3:9** "Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds"
 - ii. What if my sister is raped and gets pregnant? Surely this situation would justify abortion in this instance.
 - a. No abortion is murder.
 - 1. **Ro 1:29** "being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers,"
 - iii. What if I got married & divorced at a really young age and didn't know that the Bible said that I couldn't remarry. My wife and I have been together for 40 years now this should justify our marriage.
 - a. No, only for fornication can one remarry; that being the one that was innocent not the one that committed the fornication.
 - 1. **Mt 19:9** "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery."
 - iv. What I wanted to be baptized and I was on an island about to die with no water that I could get to surly I would be justified by God ie saved.
 - a. No, only those that obey all of God's Plan of Salvation will be saved.
 - 1. **Mk 16:16** "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."

CONCLUSION

- 1. Situations will never justify sin under any circumstance.
 - a. **Mt 7:21** "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."
- 2. Invitation
 - a. God's Plan of Salvation
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**