



Jesus and the Woman Caught in Adultery

Explanation of the Picture

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The Third in a Series of Eight

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1. **“JESUS”**. The letters are green, representing His earthly ministry, when *“He went about doing good”* (Ac 10:38). This drawing, and song that goes with it, is one such account.

“And early in the morning, He came again into the Temple, and all the people were coming to Him, and

He sat down and began to teach them. And the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery, and having set her in the midst, they said to Him, *'Teacher, this woman has been caught in adultery, in the very act. Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women; what then do You say?'* And they were saying this, testing Him, in order that they might have grounds for accusing Him. But Jesus stooped down, and with His finger wrote on the ground. But when they persisted in asking Him, He straightened up and said to them, *'He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.'* And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. And when they heard it, they began to go out one by one ... beginning with the older ones. And He was left alone, and the woman where she had been in the midst. And straightening up Jesus said to her, *'Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?'* And she said, *'No one, Lord,'* Jesus said, *'Neither do I condemn you; go your way; from now on, sin no more''* (Jn 8:2-11).

2. The Pointing Hands. Although these men's hands are all pointing at the adulterous woman, make no mistake about it ... their eyes are fixed on Jesus. They are pointing at the woman, but are ready to drop her case completely and lunge on the Christ like a pack of wolves. And after all, that is what they were - wolves in sheep's clothing.

This event in the life of Christ is just tremendous. It is a demonstration of the gentleness and power and wisdom of God in the flesh (Ja 3:13). It is also a display of the wrath of man, that will give praise to God (Ps 76:10). Instead of contending with these foolish accusers toe-to-toe, Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground. But what did He write? Well, God did not chose to record that for us, but I have some educated guesses for you. But, whatever it was, we know it was exceedingly convicting. Jesus absolutely humiliated these irate men - in public!

Let's back up and put ourselves in this scene. The accusers had set up this scenario with one goal in mind. They wanted to trap Jesus in a no-win situation. If He excused this woman, He would be a violator of the Law of Moses ... and declared a false prophet! But if He agreed to have this woman executed, as a friend of publicans and sinners, how would that go over with His audience? And it is quite possible this woman was known to many in Jesus' audience.

But also consider this. Have you ever encountered one who is extremely angry? How *open* is that individual *to reason while in that rage*? The scribes and Pharisees thrust this woman into the midst of a Bible study, and when Jesus stooped down, they pressed in - smelling victory in the air! They *persisted* (a Greek intensive) in their request for an answer. *"What then do You say?"* They were *certain* they had Him cornered. And this was all occurring in the Temple - *their* domain in the heart of the nation. For these religious leaders to be absolutely humiliated seconds later ... well, whatever Jesus wrote totally stunned them. For these *"leaders"* to be reversed from raging, malicious, scheming aggressors (on the edge of victory) to retreating, publicly humiliated scoundrels - before an audience they considered ignorant and profane - well, I hope you feel the power of this event. Jesus absolutely obliterated them.

So, what did He write on the ground? Well, let's look at a few guesses.

Guess 1. *"Teachers of the Law ... where's George?"* or, *"You are of Moses? So, where's George?"* To catch this woman in adultery meant ... there was another party. Under the Law, *both* were to be stoned. And if Jesus wrote the name of the man involved ... do you think that may have stunned them? And is it possible that "George" was one of their friends who helped stage this whole deal?

Guess 2. Maybe Jesus wrote the Roman decree that declared the Jews could no longer execute anyone. This decree is the reason the Jews later needed Pilate so as to get Jesus executed. But, as they

later stoned Stephen, I am not at all sure this decree had that much restraining power to it (Ac 6:8-15 and Chapter 7).

Guess 3. Maybe He wrote the names of some of their “girlfriends” of yesteryear, or yesterday - or today - on that holy ground.

Personally, I lean toward Guess 1. Of course, as He did have two writing sessions, He may have written several things. But, whatever He wrote, He convicted *each of them* of sin - personal sin. The old fools were the first to understand their hypocrisy. But even the young hot-bloods soon retreated before the Lamb of God. And to confound these hard, raging hearts on the very cusp of victory - well, He absolutely pierced them through. Jesus was the man of men. He still is. Oh, to be like Him. That is my goal in life. *“Thy arrows are in the heart of the King’s enemies”* (Ps 45:5). At the Judgment, *“all those who are angered at You will be shamed and dishonored”* (Isa 41:11). Scenes similar to the one with this adulterous woman will occur before His Throne on Judgment Day. Just a different writing utensil, medium, and environ. But there will be no place to go in retreat, regroup, and re-attack. Those opportunities will be gone.

After He wrote on the ground, He rose and said, *“He who is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.”* Then, He calmly stooped down and again took up His literary masterpiece. Have you noticed that everything He authors ... is a masterpiece?

3. The Woman. After the accusers slunk off, did Jesus excuse or condone the woman in her sin? Well, to be lawfully condemned under the Law of Moses, there had to be at least *two* witnesses. All the witnesses had just deserted the scene. There was no one to Lawfully condemn her. Summary judgment then came down ... and a mistrial was declared. Jesus, in grace *and Law*, then said to the adulterous woman, *“Go... and sin no more.”* Jesus dismissed her - and warned her. She knew she was very near being a dead woman moments earlier. I hope this changed her. Near death experiences often change individuals ... but, sometimes they don’t.

This account is often used to make a case that Christians are not to judge anyone. This is a total misreading of this event, and a total misunderstanding of a Christian’s duty and responsibility. When it comes to people judging people, it is true this is a scenario where sinners are judging sinners. Because of this innate flaw in the process, God requires that procedures be followed. Under the Law of Moses, these sinners (the accusing scribes and Pharisees) violated proper procedure in a flagrant and grievous manner. Jesus flayed them for their hypocrisy. He hates hypocrisy. He always has ... and He always will. Praise God for that. But Jesus did establish a procedure for judging in the Church. It is extremely simple, and has built into it opportunity for review, rebuttal and repentance. And it mandates action against the duly convicted. *“If your brother sins, go and reprove him in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. But, if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact (word) may be confirmed. And if he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax-gatherer”* (Mt 18:15-17). Paul later added, *“Remove the wicked man from among yourselves”* (1Cor 5:13). Sounds like a whole lot of judging ... is commanded. I even wrote my Master Thesis on this. While we are not in a place to damn anyone, we sure can judge - and are commanded to do so. And that ... is an act of love. *“Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment”* (Jn 7:24).

4. Our Green Times in Life. Even the “green time” of a Christian is marked with warfare. Those who *turn aside* from evil make themselves “*a target*” (Isa 59:15). How much more of a target will one be who is employed *in promoting* righteousness? Lord Jesus, teach us from Your example.

This woman was caught in adultery,
A charge that was true - more than likely.
But I'll see her real soon,
prob'ly saved from her doom,
As Your blood fell on her from The Tree.

Halleluia!

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Here's the Song:
<https://youtu.be/l1aKaue6vCE>

Here's the Song Commentary:
<https://youtu.be/iUnJ3RTm61o>

Heres the video Explanation of the Drawing:
<https://youtu.be/X8DIEBTyLhk>

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