

## Chapter 8

**1-6** – By the way, those Jewish leaders had already disregarded the law by arresting the woman without the man. The law required that **both parties** to adultery be stoned to death (Leviticus 20:10; Deuteronomy 22:22). The leaders were using the woman as a trap so they could trick Jesus.

If Jesus said the woman should not be stoned, they would accuse him of violating God's Law. If he urged them to execute her, they would report him to the Romans, who did not permit the Jews to carry out their own executions. So, let's see what happened...

**7** - This is a significant statement about judging others, is it not? Because Jesus upheld the legal penalty for adultery, which was stoning, he could not be accused of being against the law. But by saying that only a sinless person could throw the first stone, he highlighted the importance of compassion and forgiveness.

When others are caught in sin, are we quick to pass judgment, acting as though we have never sinned ourselves? It is God's role to judge, not ours, isn't that what God's Word tells us? Our role is to show forgiveness and compassion.

**8** - It is uncertain whether Jesus was merely ignoring the accusers by writing something on the ground, or maybe he was listing their sins – “Say Tom, who were you with last Saturday night when you should have been at home with your family? And Hey Bill, didn't you knowingly overcharge John when you sold him that fishing boat last week?”

Or, may be Jesus was simply writing out the Ten Commandments. Jesus knew everything about each person standing there accusing the woman of adultery. This surely was humbling. So, let's see what happens...

**9** - When Jesus said that only someone who had not sinned should throw the first stone, the leaders slipped quietly away, from oldest to youngest. Evidently the older men were more aware of their sins than the younger, huh?

Age and experience often temper youthful self-righteousness – at least, I think, it is starting to be that way for me – thank God! We must all recognize our sinful nature, and look for ways to help others, rather than hurt them.

**10-11** - Jesus didn't condemn the woman accused of adultery, but neither did he ignore or condone her sin. He told her to leave her life of sin. Jesus stands ready to forgive any sin in our life, but confession and repentance mean a change of heart. Remember, with God's help we can accept Christ's forgiveness and stop our wrongdoing, whatever it may be.

**12** - Jesus was speaking in the part of the Temple where the offerings were put (8:20), where candles burned to symbolize the pillar of fire that led the people of Israel through the wilderness (Exodus 13:21, 22). In this context, Jesus called himself the light of the world. The pillar of fire represented God's presence, protection, and guidance. Jesus brings God's presence, protection, and guidance. Is he the light of your world?

**13-20** – Now, notice the use of the term “I am” by Jesus in the next few verses, remembering that when the Lord appeared to Moses in a

burning bush that did not burn up, and Moses asked him, “What is your name?”, the Lord responded, “I am that I am.” And when Moses asked the Lord “Whom should I say has sent me to the people of Israel and to Pharaoh?” the Lord replied, “Tell them ‘I am’ sent you.” Now, listen for the “I am” statements that Jesus makes...

**21-32** - Jesus himself is the truth that sets us free (8:36). He is the source of truth, the perfect standard of what is right. He frees us from the consequences of sin, from self-deception, and from deception by Satan. He shows us clearly the way to eternal life with God. Thus, Jesus does not give us freedom to do what we want, but freedom to follow God. As we seek to serve God, Jesus’ perfect truth frees us to be all that God means for us to be.

**33-36** - Sin has a way of enslaving us, controlling us, dominating us, and dictating our actions. Jesus can free us from this slavery that keeps us from becoming the person God created us to be. If sin is restraining, mastering, or enslaving you, Jesus can break its power over your life.