

Walking with Jesus
Part 10
“God’s Heart Revealed”

John 8

1 but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

2 At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. 3 The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group 4 and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. 5 In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” 6 They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger.

7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”

8 Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

9 At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there.

10 Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”

11 “No one, sir,” she said.

“Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”

From Chapter 5 until now there seems to be a pattern:

- Jesus performs a miracle or speaks to the crowd and there is immediate resistance from the Religious.
- The Pharisees are challenging Jesus at every turn, they are questioning him publicly, they have sent out temple guards to arrest him in Ch. 7 and now they have staged a situation for the purpose of cornering Jesus...

Vs. 3-6

3 The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group 4 and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. 5 In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” 6 They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

- The Jewish Law had very high standards for evidence used against someone for capital punishment.
- There had to be two eye witnesses with identically matching stories.
- The witnesses had to have seen the act with no possible misunderstanding.
- Notice how it says **Vs. 4** “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery.
- Beyond a shadow of a doubt this woman was guilty...
- Notice how the Pharisees twist scripture here:

Vs.5 In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?”

I want you to see something here...

The Pharisees don't quote scripture correctly, they twist it to say what they want it to say...

Leviticus 20:10

10 “If a man commits adultery with another man's wife—with the wife of his neighbor—both the adulterer and the adulteress are to be put to death.

- Isn't it like the devil to twist scripture to get his way...
- Most scholars agree this poor woman was set up for the purpose of confronting Jesus...
- Isn't that how the enemy works...
- The Pharisee's did not care about this Woman, what a picture of how the enemy works to bring people down today...

- Like the Pharisees here, the Devil doesn't really care about you, He seeks only to steal, kill and destroy...

Vs. 6-8

6b But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger.
7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her."
8 Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

- The sin which she was guilty of was punishable by death...

Jesus stooped down:

His posture is humble...

It's almost as if he is saddened by what's going on...

Jesus doesn't respond in shock towards the woman...

Jesus doesn't strike out...

Jesus doesn't lift his voice in anger...

Jesus doesn't heighten tensions...

Rather He lowers tensions...

Let me say it like this:

When we are caught in sin...

God is saddened...

He responds in a humble posture...

He doesn't respond in shock...

He doesn't strike out at us...

He doesn't lift his voice in anger...

He doesn't heighten tensions...

He responds in meekness, Just like we see here with Jesus...

Jesus acts like a good lawyer who seeks peace for this woman...

1 John 2:1

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. 2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

Jesus is our advocate

Jesus is our attorney

The Bible calls Satan the “Accuser of the Brethren”

Revelations 12:10

“Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.”

There is one who pleads your case and defends you in the courtroom of Heaven - His name is Jesus...

The Bible says - Jesus stooped down:

To the broken He is tender...

To the stiff-necked He is stern...

For this Woman in this moment - Jesus is her Prince of Peace

Jesus said in Matthew 9:13

But go and learn what this means: ‘**I desire mercy, not sacrifice.**’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

Vs. 7,9

Jesus said, “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”

This is powerful:

- Capital punishment under Jewish Law was carried out like this: The witnesses who saw the act (punishable by death), were the ones with their finger on the button. They were to be the first to cast the stone, to lead the way in carrying out capital punishment.

But Jesus says here, “He who is without sin, cast the first stone”...

Jesus did something different...

It would have been easy for them to just follow protocol...

But Jesus kills two birds with one stone, so to speak...

He shines the light of justice on everyone within the sound of his voice...

Vs. 9

At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there.

Vs. 10,11

10 Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

11 "No one, sir," she said.

"Then **neither do I condemn you,**" Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

Neither do I condemn you

Did you hear that...

Someone here needs to hear that today...

Maybe you've thought wrong about God...

Maybe you thought God was mean...

Maybe that God didn't like you...

You thought that his thoughts about you were not good...

But I'm here to tell you that's not how God thinks of you...

His thoughts towards you are good not evil...

Jeremiah 29:11-14 NKJV

11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

12 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.

13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. **14** I will be found by you, says the Lord,

Hear me today:

The hearts of men are evil...

But God is not...

We are guilty of evil thoughts...

Maybe when someone hurts us...

But God is not like man...

He holds no grudge...

He is quick to forgive if we will ask him...

He is merciful and gracious...

His thoughts towards you are not evil, but of peace, to give you a hope and a future...

He said to this woman, **Neither do I condemn you...**

Matthew 9:13

Jesus said, But go and learn what *this* means: ‘**I desire mercy** and not sacrifice.’ For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”

Vs.12

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

Closing:

Maybe today you need to know that God’s thoughts towards you are not evil...

I believe he told me to tell you that...

He spoke to me on Wednesday and told me to tell you that...

He said to me just like he did not condemn this woman, he does not condemn you today...

Rather he desires to show you mercy...

He wants you to know God’s thoughts towards you is peace, and to give you a hope and a future...