

**An ADULTERESS arrives**

As Jesus was teaching in the Temple, a woman caught in adultery was brought to him. In the Jewish Law, people caught in adultery were to be stoned to death (Lev. 20:10; Duet. 22:22, 23). But sexual fidelity was in effect *before and after* the Law as well (Gen. 20:3; 38:24; Job 31:9-11; Rom. 1:24-32; Gal. 5:19-21). As God made the two sexual genders for one another, He decides how the good gift of sexuality is to be expressed and experienced—one man with one woman together for life in marriage. *God holds everyone morally responsible for the use of their sexuality* (Heb. 13:4). Though various attractions may come at various times, we are not to obey our *attractions* but to control our *actions*. Temptations might arrive, but they should be met with resistance and rejection (1 Cor. 10:13). *If you can't control your lust you can't control your life!*

**A TRAP emerges**

Interrupting Jesus, the religious leaders attempt to present a situation so difficult it would be a 'lose-lose' situation for him. If he lets her go, he's breaking the Law, if he says to stone her his message of compassion might be questioned and may be violating Roman law. As Jesus knew they weren't seeking his expertise and she was just a pawn in their scheme, he disarms the situation by writing in the dust. *Don't get flustered by other people's wickedness!* As they should have already stoned her for adultery and there is no man present, he tells them to follow the Law, and confronts their self-righteousness (Deut. 17:6, 7). Jesus wasn't saying you had to be sinless to pass judgment, only that you couldn't be a hypocrite (Matt. 7:3-5). *They tried to trap Jesus, but only caught themselves!*

**An ESCAPE appears**

As Jesus bends down and writes again, the 'elders' leave first. The most mature know their sin and Jesus' undeniable wisdom. With no accusers there is no trial, but Jesus references condemnation from him is possible. As God, he knew her sin and told her to repent and change. Jesus supports God's moral law first, then offers grace and mercy from the heart of God second. God's justice and mercy are held together by the hands of Jesus who satisfies the one for God and the other for people. *As we can't be good, Jesus is good for us!*