

Adultery, the Church, & Pardon

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Bible Text: John 8:10-11

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Let us pray.

Dear heavenly Father, most gracious and holy Lord, we thank thee, Lord, for this day, for bringing us here, Lord, the healing that thou hast done to restore those who were out last week. Lord, we thank thee and praise thy name for thy great healing. Lord, we ask now at this hour that thou would come and abide and abode with us, oh Lord, that thou would come and commune with our souls, that thy Word as it is read and preached this hour, Lord, it would come with thy power that you would search our hearts, that you would reveal thyself and, Lord, that you would speak peace and love and comfort to thy people. Father, I thank thee for thy Word, for preserving is freedom today that we could be here to speak thy Word. And, Lord, we pray that that freedom would continue in thee. Bless this hour now with the fullness of thee for thy glory and for thy name's sake in Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

This morning we are going to go immediately to our text which is found in John chapter eight. We will read where our main text is and then we will see how we got there. It is a beautiful picture of how the Lord deals with his own. I pray that sometimes I know we shy away from passages like this because of the sin that is mentioned. But I pray that the Lord shows us, first and foremost, that we are all guilty of this sin and that he is the only one who can pardon it.

So if you look in John eight verses 10 and 11 is our main text today. I will read them.

When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.¹

It is a precious passage to the child of God not when he reads it, but when he experiences it, when he or she experiences it, when the Lord takes all the accusers away, when he dismisses all the accusers that we have, whether it be his holy law, whether it be Satan himself, whether it be the old man that we carry with us, whether it be the world. When

¹ John 8:10-11.

the Lord removes those accusers and he sets us in a place where it is just he and us, and to hear his voice saying:

“Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.”²

I could read those words 100 times and unless the Lord applies them to my soul, they are just words. Mostly all of his Word is like that. He must come with his power.

Paul tells us in Romans 8:1 that:

“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.”³

That is what the world doesn't understand. That is what Satan doesn't understand. As he goes to accuse you and I, as the world points their finger and you and I if we be his children:

“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”⁴

I have a lot to say about these two verses, but I am going to hold back, because I think it is very beneficial for us to see what leads up to this part. There is a lot going on at this time. There is a lot going on, but, as you will see, Jesus removes everything, because the Scriptures they are those that testify of Christ. It doesn't testify of man. But it would behoove us today to understand how the world and how those that accuse us come to accuse us and how in his great grace and his great mercy a sinner such as I would dismiss those accusers and bring me to his feet of love and mercy and pardon.

If you will go with me now to the beginning of the chapter.

“Jesus went unto the mount of Olives.”⁵

It was a very precious place for him to go, we know, many times throughout the Word. As the Lord gave a discourse there as he did many things in the Mount of Olives, we see that he returns there in this passage and for a reason, of course.

“And early in the morning he came again into the temple.”⁶

Came again means that he had been there daily to instruction people in the temple. The temple is where they all gathered to hear the law read. The Scribes, the Pharisees, those who sought God came to the temple to find out a better understanding about who God was. So Christ came to the temple to show the excellent way that was in him. He came to

² John 8:11.

³ Romans 8:1.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ John 8:1.

⁶ John 8:2.

the temple to show that everything that was in the Old Testament Scriptures was fulfilled in him.

“And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down.”⁷

They came down and sat down at the feet of Christ wanting to be instructed by him. That is quite a statement, because later on we will ... the same crowds are yelling to crucify him. The same crowds are saying, “Get rid of him. We won’t have this man to rule over us.” But at this appointed time they come and they are sitting to hear more instruction from Jesus Christ. That is an amazing thing, isn’t it? Man today flocks to churches all over this country and they believe they are going to hear the mouth of God, the mouth of his prophets, the mouth of his teachers. But what a delusion? What an empty place this world’s religion is? This speaks and boasts of the law that tells and puts a yoke upon man what they must do. And then fills the Scriptures with what man has done.

I don’t know about you, but I don’t want anything to do with that kind of teaching, that kind of instruction. But that is not what Jesus was doing. He was instructing them of himself. He was instructing them of being the very fulfillment of all things the prophets said would come. And he was the very fulfillment of that law that they held so dearly in their minds and in their hearts.

And, of course, we know who else is going to be present. We see this in verse three.

And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him.⁸

We see something about the religious community here. We see something about the lies and the deception and the twisting. Do you understand what the law said? When Moses put forth the law in Deuteronomy 22 the law stated that in the commission of this act the man and the woman were to be brought and stoned.

As you can see, they brought only one. They weren’t concerned about the justice or the law of God. They weren’t concerned about what was doing what was right and what was wrong. In fact, the Word of God tells us what they were concerned with. They were concerned with tempting him. They were coming to lay a snare in front of Christ again, because Jesus would preach that the publicans and the harlots would enter into the kingdom of God longer, far easier and quicker than these Pharisees ever would. And they were going to test him on that, because she was caught in the very act and the twisting and the deceitfulness that they would bring forth, they wanted to catch Jesus and you have got to say, you have got to pronounce the law. If you don’t, you have

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ John 8:3-6.

transgressed the law. If you do, you have went against your mercy, your compassion that you say you have for the publicans and the sinners.

So Jesus seems to be in a tight place. But that is man's wisdom. That is man's understanding. That is man's logic. It is an amazing thing how you ... when you read the Scriptures and you see how much they truly hated Christ and for a minister of God to stand up here and say that, to say that natural man and that all of this religious world today hates this Christ, hates the one true and living Christ.

“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”⁹

But how rejected he is today in his sovereignty, how rejected he is today in his sovereign electing grace. Oh, the world wants to make him out to be a harlot. They want to make him out to be an indiscriminate love of all men. And for the child of God when he comes to passages like this and he sees oh how evil man really is, how evil he is to try to lay a snare, to try to catch Jesus, like there is some possibility that there is going to be sin lying in the Son of God.

But notice Jesus' answer first.

“But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not.”¹⁰

Now many of the Jewish historians and those who wrote of old history according to the Scriptures say that he sat down and he wrote all of their sins in the ground. As he sat there with his finger, he started looking into the hearts of those in front of him and he started to write down their sins in the dirt. Now whether that is true or not, I don't know. The Holy Spirit is silent upon that matter in Scripture, so I will be, too. All of that doesn't matter. What does matter is I want you to see the humility in Christ and the answer, because as I read that, I thought about how I would handle the reviling of man, how I have handled the reviling of man, how I have handled the deceitfulness of man. My answer usually what it is, it is usually anger. It is usually firing back. It is usually let me justify myself.

“But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground.”¹¹

So now I ask you today or beseech you today to consider Christ as we go forth in there rest of this passage, as now we have introduced what is going on around him. I would like you to consider what the has to say. He is going to speak two times, one time before we get to our text and that is going to come in this verse.

⁹ Matthew 16:16.

¹⁰ John 8:6.

¹¹ Ibid.

“So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.”¹²

What great wisdom. In the midst of being accused, in the midst of trying to have a snare laid down for him, Jesus’ answer is:

“He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.”¹³

See, this hits more to the child of God. It really hits him when we read this passage. When we think about the sin that was committed, we like to point fingers or we like to say, “Well, you know, that is a horrible sin.” But do you know what the definition of adultery is according to Webster’s 1828 dictionary? Apostasy from the true God. Webster was always a good to give a spiritual definition. You can always go with a physical definition of things, but for the child of God when the Lord comes to his soul, everything is spiritual. And when the Lord says:

“He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.”¹⁴

And when we think of this sin as being apostasy, which is another word meaning abandonment, abandonment of the true and living God, now I ask you, dear ones, in the sincerity of your hearts, how many times this week did you abandon your Lord? Did you abandon your Lord for fear? Did you abandon your Lord for worldly activities? Did you abandon your Lord for selfish thoughts and selfish reason? When Jesus said:

“He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.”¹⁵

That means so much more to me in this year today than it ever meant in this narrative and what happened in this physical place at this time, because pardon and forgiveness is something the Lord does for his children alone. And when the Lord pardons him, he still reproves the sin. When he pardons the sinner, he reproves the sin. I am not up here making light of the sin. I am not up here saying that there is nothing to the sin, but I am saying that in the mirror of the Holy Ghost through the Word of God when we are brought to this place of examination, when we are brought as David was to cry out to the Lord to search me, oh God, find this wickedness that lies within me and that wickedness is always casting stones, casting stones at those that fall short, casting stones at our brothers. The Lord tells us in Matthew seven, he says:

And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me cast out the mote out of thine eye; and lo, the beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite...¹⁶

¹² John 8:7.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Matthew 7:3-5.

The hypocrisy of such a thing to pick up a stone to cast at someone when sin lies at your door. The hurling insults, the hypocrisy of thinking that you are above it, the hypocrisy of coming to the Word of God thinking that you live above sin. And it is just for those people, those dirty people over there that are still wallowing in their sin. It is hypocrisy.

“Thou hypocrite, cast out first the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother’s eye.”¹⁷

Definitely words that the Lord speaks to the soul of his children, convicting words. You know, we are hardest on the ones we love, the ones that are closest to us. We feel this entitlement to be able to kind of point out their sin if they are close to us. Well, you know, maybe that is what I am here for. I am here to reprove people of their sin, to show them how wicked their way is. But, boy, I tell you, when that finger starts pointing back at you, then there is a lot of offense then. How dare you? The Lord says not to judge.

There is some depth in these words.

“He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.”¹⁸

You know, I think of Webster’s definition here, apostasy from the true God. I think of how serving another, being intimate with the world being intimate with the things of this world, being intimate with Satan. It is a horrific thing. It is a thing that when the Lord opens your eyes to it you just want to crawl under a rock. When he shows you the holiness of himself... And make no mistake about it. For years and years and still today there is such a misunderstanding of what God’s law is, what the purpose of God’s law is. God’s law reveals sin. The apostle Paul says it is spiritual to the child of God. It reveals the holiness of his Lord. It is necessary. It is a glorious thing to behold the absolute perfection of a holy God, because it reveals our blemishes. It reveals that that needs to be lopped off. It reveals that that the Lord will then purge away.

How would we know we would ever need a Savior without knowing we are a sinner?

“He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.”¹⁹

Powerful words. Powerful words to the child of God when applied by the Holy Spirit. But powerful words by a God who sent them to the conscience of man.

“And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience...”²⁰

The Greek saying, “Being by the conscience being convicted or corrected,:

¹⁷ Matthew 7:5.

¹⁸ John 8:7.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ John 8:8-9.

“...by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.”²¹

You know, I thought about that. I have thought about of the power of God on man’s conscience. These weren’t God’s children. I want you to think about that a minute. Unbeknownst to the pastor we had a conversation on Friday. I mean, he knew about the conversation but not the effect it had on me. And he asked me a question. And he told me he wanted me to think before I answered it. And when he asks those kind of questions you better think before you answer. And he said to me, he said, “You know, do you think man today, do you think that the nation today, do you think there is more of a majority in this nation today that wants to work for what they have or wants to be on some kind of welfare?”

It is a deep question. I had to think about it. And then finally I said to him, “Well, you know, I think the way I see it today the way it looks to me like there is some man now wants everything handed to him. There is hardly anyone out there, at least that I see or what we see on TV, what we are used to dealing with in daily life that wants to work for anything.”

And I thought about that this weekend. I thought about it many times about how perception seems to change and I even said to him, “Well, 30 years ago in the 80s, in the 80s I can remember a strong work ethic being taught, not only in schools when I was a young child, but in the presidency then. It seems to be we were working more. We were trying to rebuild that.”

Well, what changed? And I thought about that in light of this passage. I thought many times and praying for this country. What am I praying for? Am I praying for some kind of conversion like Nineveh where God poured out grace and ... well, I won’t say grace. I will say mercy and all of them repented and that he saved the nation and then destroyed them a short time later. Is that what we are looking for with this country? And then I think of 2 Chronicles 7:14 and I think about if my people humble themselves. And that is a daunting task, because the people of God don’t humble themselves. And if you sit around thinking that the people of God are going to humble themselves, we are equally in trouble. And I thought about what the Lord did here. I thought about when they heard it, when they heard what Jesus said, when Jesus said:

“He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.”²²

And the power of God’s Word was that it hit them right in the conscience. These Pharisees, these high minded people, these high minded scribes, these high minded religionists and the Lord hit them right between the eyes, not in the heart, right between the eyes. And none of them could pick up a stone. None of them could stand there and say, “Yes.” It is this is what we need in this country today.” This is the power of God

²¹ John 8:9.

²² John 8:7.

that we need on the conscience of man, because the way this nation is going, the way that the conscience of man is going today, everything they want is free and everything... there is such a deception in this world today. There is such a deception by Satan.

But Satan has no {?} here. You don't think Satan wanted her stoned? You don't think Satan wanted Jesus tried even further in this matter? But Christ in his Word he came with power on the conscience of man. That is what we need. We need—and I pray that you pray that way—is that the Lord comes in the conscience of man and persuades that conscience to do this, to do something that they would never do of themselves, to do something what I would say miraculous.

“Oh, but the law says we have got to stone her.”

The nation today, the White House says for us to do this. You know we are all caught up into this Socialist seems to be the way we re going. And I, believe me, I don't want this to be a political message. You know me. I am not a political person. But, boy, it was impressed upon me the power of God on the conscience of man. Wow. Lord, you could sway people to not only vote the right way, but to return back to do what is right. Wow.

I am not talking about soul reformation. Certainly he can do that. But this is the power of our Lord, just to persuade a whole group of men. That is enough I am going to say about that, because now I want to talk to you about the rest of verse nine.

“Jesus was left alone and the woman was standing in the midst.”²³

That is it. All the accusers were gone. The bondage of the law is gone. The sin has been put away. The sin is no longer in the forefront. The everything has been answered. Jesus still is stooping down on the ground. He is left alone with the woman. This is... now listen. This is his work. I want you to know. I want you to see her part in this. She doesn't have one. She is receiving grace. She is there at the mercy of her Lord. And all that is around her accusing her and wanting to her life and wanting her to follow them and wanting to reform her, they can't touch her. The Lord has dismissed every one of them.

And now we come to our text.

“When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman...”²⁴

There is communion. There is the relationship between us and our Lord.

“...he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers?”²⁵

²³ John 8:9.

²⁴ John 8:10.

²⁵ Ibid.

Oh, for him to say that to my soul today. Where are your accusers? Where is Satan? He is under my foot. Where is the law? It is fulfilled in me. Where is the world? It has been put away and defeated. Where is sin? It has been pardoned and nailed to a tree.

Well, Lord, what else can accuse me?

Solomon wrote in Proverbs 17:15:

“He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD.”²⁶

Think about that. They are abomination to the Lord, condemning the just and justifying the wicked. No, the Lord is just and he is the justifier of his people. Romans 3:26 says that.

“To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness.”²⁷

You see, that is what we see in this passage. We see his righteousness. And it is his righteousness that dismisses all of man’s accusations. It is his righteousness that dismisses Satan’s accusations. It is his righteousness that dismisses your accusations, because the biggest enemy we have is within. And the biggest accuser we have is our own conscience, the old man. Why aren’t you doing it this way? See, you are not God’s child. You can’t be. You are not following this. You are not doing this. You are not doing that. Oh, Lord, answer for me. Undertake for me. Say I have done it for him. That is what he says to my soul. I have done it for him. He can’t do it. I picked him up. I carried him.

“Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?”²⁸

You say, “Oh, what a blessing that would be to not be condemned by man.” Wouldn’t it be?

And then verse 11.

“She said, No man, Lord...”²⁹

You are my Lord.

All of these men are down in just short, short time. I went from everybody picking up a stone and throwing it at my head to being pardoned. And, like I said, the only one who can is the Lord, the Lord over all man, the Lord over all creation, the Lord over all things.

²⁶ Proverbs 17:15.

²⁷ Romans 3:26.

²⁸ John 8:10.

²⁹ John 8:11.

And here is the beautiful voice of pardon.

“And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.”³⁰

John 3:17 says that—and we know what 3:16 is. 3:17 says:

“For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”³¹

That is that world in John 3:16. That is the world of everyone of his children. There is no condemnation. There is salvation. There is pardon.

The apostle Paul writing to the Church at Corinth after going over a roll call of their sins, in 1 Corinthians 6:11 said:

“And such were some of you.”³²

Are you sitting there with me today as you hear the Lord’s Word and say, “Yeah, that is me. I have picked up a stone”? But even greater, “That is me. I have committed adultery with my husband, with my spiritual husband. I have apostatized from the true God. I have abandoned him.”

Paul said:

“And such were some of you.”³³

I love these next words.

“...but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”³⁴

That is the sweet salvation that Christ speaks to the soul of his children. That is the no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus who walk after his Spirit and not after our flesh.

“And such were some of you: but ye are washed.”³⁵

We are washed by the blood we just sang about, washed by the blood of the Lamb. We are sanctified. We are set apart for his holy use and we are made holy by the one who is holy. Could you imagine this one being brought? Well, yes, we can imagine this one

³⁰ John 8:11.

³¹ John 3:17.

³² 1 Corinthians 6:11.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Ibid.

being brought, because it is us, the chiefest of sinners.

It is an amazing thing when verse seven when the Lord takes you, experientially now, in verse seven in your experience. He takes you away from judging others and he puts it just between you and he. You know, I have told you before that tone of the things the Lord revealed to me a while back, a while ago, was all of my dear brothers and sisters in here. They all struggle with the same enemies I do, the same ones, the same way. And I know how relentless those enemies are. Wow. How can I cast a stone? Oh, Lord, give us love for one another to pray for one another, to lift up one another and to not cast a stone.

“...ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”³⁶

And the last verse I will share with you for this one of my favorites, too, 1 John 3:20. Do you know that one?

“For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.”³⁷

He is greater than our heart that Jeremiah, by the way, said, is deceitful above all things, who can know it. That heart that is desperately wicked, that heart that he is greater than that heart that condemns, because our heart does condemn.

I love those words:

“...go and sin no more.”³⁸

Do you know what that means? She is free from the bondage of sin. She is free from the tyranny of sin. And when the Lord shows you that it is nailed on the cross that bondage is gone, that pain of it has gone, the sting of it is taken out and the blood of Christ covers it.

I would like to leave you this morning with the words from Paul at the end of Romans eight. It might have come to your mind while we were reading this passage and talking about this passage. And that is in verse 33 and 34.

“Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God’s elect?”³⁹

Well, if we had to answer that question honestly we would answer it, everybody in this life. Everybody that we know will point a finger at us at some time. They lay charge to God’s elect, but it is God that justifies. It is God that pronounces not guilty. May he pronounce that to your soul today.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ 1 John 3:20.

³⁸ John 8:11.

³⁹ Romans 8:33.

“Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.”⁴⁰

May he make that intercession this morning for your soul. And may he show you what he said to her.

“Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.”⁴¹

Precious words to be experienced by every child of God as he comes with power to those thoughts.

Dear heavenly Father, most gracious and holy Lord, we ask thy blessing upon thy Word today and thou would heal the souls of thy people and, Lord, that thou would show us that you have put away our sin as far as the East is from the West and, Lord, that you are the justifier of thy people. Lord, may you commune with our souls this day that thou art truly our Lord. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

⁴⁰ Romans 8:34.

⁴¹ John 8:11.