

## GO, AND SIN NO MORE

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John 7:53-8:11

1. This passage is not found in the older manuscripts of the New Testament.
2. Some newer manuscripts include it, but not always in the same place or the same author.
3. Scholars disagree as to whether this event actually took place or not.
4. Those who believe that the passage is inspired Scripture argue that it is consistent with the life of Jesus and the tactics of His enemies.
5. That is a true observation, and I personally believe that it is valid to treat it as an actual event that occurred during the ministry of Jesus, when exactly we cannot say for certain.
6. At the end of chapter seven we saw Jesus standing in the Temple proclaiming, or crying out, to the people.
7. After leaving for the night, Jesus returned to the Temple early in the morning, sat down, and began to teach the people who were coming to Him.
8. As He was teaching the events recorded here took place.

### **I. A rude and crude interruption.**

- A. Jesus' teaching session was interrupted by a group of scribes and Pharisees who publicly dragged a woman before Jesus.
- B. She had been caught in the act of committing adultery.
- C. This whole incident was what we would call a setup.
- D. The scribes and Pharisees were **not** motivated by:
  1. Their devotion to the Law of Moses.
  2. A sense of justice and fairness—where was the man involved?
  3. A desire to promote right behavior.
- E. Their sole purpose was to test Jesus by putting Him in a no win situation. 6
  1. If He said the woman should be stoned in accordance with the Law of Moses He would have been in conflict with the Roman authorities.
  2. If He said the woman should not be stoned He would have been guilty of ignoring the Law of Moses.
- F. The world loves to try and silence and discredit Christians by posing questions and hypothetical situations that have no satisfactory answers or solutions.

### **II. A measured and pointed response.**

- A. Jesus did not respond immediately.  
NOTE: James wrote, "This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God."
- B. Rather He stooped down and began writing on the ground with His finger.  
NOTE: Jesus' enemies were without scruples, and so they were willing to use whatever tactics they needed to use to accomplish their purpose.
- C. We are not told what He wrote, but His response spoke volumes.
- D. Maybe He wrote, "Where is the man involved?" or He might have listed some of the sins the woman's accusers were guilty of.
- F. The religious leaders refused to be put off and continued to ask for an answer.

G. In His response Jesus set the standard for those who feel it is their responsibility to act as judge, jury, and executioner.

“He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.” 7

H. Jesus went back to writing on the ground while, one by one, the woman’s accusers left.

I. As Christians and as churches we have a responsibility to hold one another accountable by confronting ongoing behavior that is sinful and harmful to individuals and to the church.

J. However, our actions and motives are to be redemptive, and motivated by love and a desire to see reconciliation and restoration take place.

H. Final judgment and punishment are not our responsibility.

### III. A clear and convicting picture.

A. After her accusers left we find the woman standing alone before Jesus.

1. I think her demeanor had changed from anger and defiance to shame and dismay.

2. In the presence of Jesus she could neither deny nor defend her sinful behavior and guilt.

NOTE: No explanations or excuses were offered.

B. Here we have a picture of:

1. Perfect purity—qualified to both judge and execute judgment.

2. Total depravity—a guilty sinner deserving judgment.

C. Before a righteous and holy God we all stand condemned. Romans 3:9-10, 23

What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin; 10 as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; ...23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

D. One day all who reject God’s mercy and grace in this life will stand before the Lord Jesus and answer for their sin and rebellion. They will be judged and condemned.

E. Jesus’ final exchange with this woman needs to be understood in light of His earthly mission. John 12:47-50

**"If anyone hears My sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge (currently condemn) him; for I did not come to judge (currently condemn) the world, but to save the world.** 48 "He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day. 49 "For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak. 50 "I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me."

1. Jesus stood up and asked the woman, “Where are your accusers? Did no one condemn you (by throwing a rock at you)?

2. She replied, “No one, Lord.”

NOTE: In this context the word translated Lord could mean “sir,” or some other form of respect.

3. Jesus replied, “I do not condemn (pass final judgment on) you either. Go. From now on sin no more.”

NOTE: We do not know if this woman was actually converted or not, but Jesus told her to stop committing adultery.

### APPLICATION

1. The good news is, “There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” (Romans 8:1)

2. Furthermore, “No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. 10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.” I John 3:9-10