

- I) 7:53-8:11 INTRO: And everyone went to his own house. But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives
  - a) AS WE BEGIN OUR STUDY: Jesus has been ministering and the day has concluded
    - 1) IT IS NOW LATE: Evening has come and the people have begun to disperse
  
- II) V53 JOHN MAKES NOTE: Everyone went to his own house. *But Jesus* went to the Mount of Olives
  - a) He would most likely stay in the Garden of Gethsemane, borrowed from a friend
    - 1) This is because He had *no home of His own* and would rely on the love and giving of friends
    - 2) Mt 8:19-20 A certain scribe came and said to Him, "Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."
  
- III) AMAZINGLY: He owned all things, and yet did not demand support
  - a) WHY: Because He wants people to give to Him freely, out of love
    - 1) 2 Co 9:7 Let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver
  
- IV) THE FACT IS: He still uses what is freely offered to Him, including our lives
  - a) Jn 1:11-12 He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name
  
- V) V1 WHILE OTHERS: Were returning to the comfort of their homes, Jesus was walking to a garden
  - a) THIS KIND OF LIFE: Gave Him great understanding of our human sorrows
    - 1) Is 53:3 He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.
  
- VI) V2 BUT: *Early* in the morning He came again into the Temple and *all the people came to Him*
  - a) The next day, at daybreak, Jesus came back to the temple and began to teach the people
    - 1) Jer 3:15 I will give you shepherds *according to my heart*, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding
  
- VII) AS JESUS: Was in the process of instructing them He had an opportunity to teach them about God
  - a) He was about to teach them about God through a *living* illustration: God must be revealed
    - 1) 1 Jn 4:7-8 Beloved, let us love one another...for God is love
  
- VIII) V3 THEN THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES: *Brought to Him* a woman caught in adultery
  - a) During His teaching He is suddenly interrupted by Scribes and Pharisees
    - 1) *Scribes*: Experts in Jewish Law; Students and teachers of the Law of Moses
    - 2) *Pharisees*: Religious leaders; the *separated* ones, 6,000 strong, centered in Jerusalem
  
- IX) THEY HAVE: *Brought* a woman to him that they had caught in the act of adultery
  - a) They brought her: To lead away to a court of justice; to compel; to seize forcefully
    - 1) They *set* her in the midst: They forced her to stand still in front of everybody
  
- X) V4 NOTE WHAT THEY SAID: Teacher, this woman was *caught* in adultery in the *very act*
  - a) *CAUGHT*: Seized, grasped eagerly, in the *very act* of sexual intercourse
    - 1) *ADULTERY*: Was and remains an extremely grievous sin
    - 2) It was not celebrated as romantic but was recognized as a terrible breach of trust

- I) **IT IS: The 7th Commandment: Ex 20:14 You shall not commit adultery**
  - a) **DEFINITION: Sexual intercourse with a married person other than the one you are married to**
    - 1) **IN JEWISH THINKING: It was 1 of the 3 gravest sins, along with murder and idolatry**
    - 2) **WM BARCLAY: Every Jew must die before he will commit idolatry, murder or adultery**
    - 3) **ADULTERY: Was recognized as a great moral crime bringing destruction to man's relationship with God and man's relationship with others**
  
- II) **BECAUSE IT IS A SERIOUS SIN: God repeatedly warns against it**
  - a) **1 Co 6:9-10 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.**
  - b) **Heb 13:14 Marriage is honorable among all and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge**
    - 1) **This was and remains a serious sin in the eyes of God**
  
- III) **V5 NOW: Moses in the Law commanded us that *such* should be stoned. But what do You say?**
  - a) **They introduce their case by appealing to the Bible: Moses says they should be stoned to death!**
    - 1) **AGAIN: They desire to create a controversy between Jesus, and Moses the Lawgiver**
  
- IV) **V6 MOTIVES: This they said, *testing Him* that they might have something of which to *accuse* Him**
  - a) **BASICALLY: They gave Jesus two choices, hoping to trap Him that they might accuse Him**
    - 1) **FIRST: Jesus could demand that they put her to death (This order would break Roman law)**
      - a) **Jn 18:31 Pilate said to them, you take him, and judge him according to your law. The Jews therefore said to him, It is *not lawful for us to put any man to death***
        - 2) **HE WOULD: Then be guilty of breaking Roman law, and become liable to prosecution**
  
- V) **SECOND: If Jesus said Let her go He would break the Law and be judged a compromiser**
  - a) **His disregard for the law of Moses could be used to state He did not value God's Word**
  
- VI) **AS WE DEVELOP THIS: We need to ask ourselves: What does this reveal about her accusers?**
  - a) **BASICALLY: This reveals at least *three* things about them**
    - 1) **FIRST: Their concept of *authority* which was to be wielded with severity**
      - a) **Mt 23:4 For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers**
  
- VII) **SECOND: Their concept of *scripture***
  - a) **To them, *it was a hammer*. They followed the letter, disregarded spirit**
    - 1) **God's Word is intended to bring life and blessings to those who love it**
    - 2) **Dt 12:28 Observe and obey all these words which I command you, that it may go well with you and your children after you forever, when you do what is good and right in the sight of the Lord your God**
    - 3) **Ps 85:10 Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**
  
- VIII) **THIRD: It reveals their concept of *people***
  - a) **They didn't see the woman as a person, but a thing such as this, of this kind or sort**
    - 1) **How was she was treated: Public *humiliation*, Public *accusation* and Public *condemnation*:**
    - 2) **THIS IS: What religious legalism produces: hypocritical judgmentalism**

- I) V6b **BUT**: Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger *as though* He did not hear
  - a) NOTICE: Jesus' initial response to them: *He ignored them*
    - 1) This may have been in order to give them some time to think about what they were doing
    - 2) After all, they were demanding capital punishment: This is a very serious charge to make
  
- II) V7 THEIR REACTION: They *continued* (persisted in, persevered) asking
  - a) HIS ANSWER: He who is without sin among you let him throw a stone at her first
    - 1) POINT: Only those who have not committed this kind of sin should put her to death
    - 2) Had any of these men ever lusted after a woman or committed sexual sin:
    - 3) Dt 17:7 The hands of the witnesses must be the first in putting him to death
  
- III) V8 AND AGAIN HE STOOPED DOWN AND WROTE ON THE GROUND:
  - a) This is the only time Jesus writes in Scripture
    - 1) It is reminiscent of the writing of the ten commandments or the writing on the wall in Dan 5
  
- IV) WHAT COULD HE HAVE BEEN WRITING
  - a) POSSIBLY: The law pertaining to adultery
    - 1) Lev 20:10 The man who commits adultery with another man's wife, he who commits adultery with his neighbor's wife, the adulterer *and* the adulteress, shall surely be put to death.
  
- V) OBVIOUSLY: Where was the man? Why had he not been brought forth, to also pay this penalty?
  - a) Justice must be applied equally to all involved:
    - 1) Ro 2:11 There is no partiality with God.
  
- VI) V9 THEN: Those who heard it being convicted by their *consciences* went out one by one
  - a) KEY: Jesus worked within the law: Without accusers, she could not be condemned
    - 1) Jn 8:17 It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true
    - 2) Job 5:12 He frustrates the devices of the crafty, so that their hands cannot carry out their plans
  
- VII) V9b NOTICE: Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the *midst*
  - a) QUESTION: If they all went out, whom was she standing in the midst of?
    - 1) It is not said that all the people whom our Lord had been instructing went out, but only her accusers: The rest undoubtedly continued with their teacher
  
- VIII) V10-11 WOMAN: Where are those accusers of yours. Has no one condemned you?
  - a) HIS REACTION: Grace filled acceptance of the woman: Is there anyone here accusing you?
  
- IX) HE SAYS TO HER: Neither do I: Go, *and sin no more*
  - a) I am not accepting your sin, I am accepting you on the basis of your repentance
    - 1) Lu 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.
  
- X) FINALLY: What does this reveal about God? That He loves, and forgives.
  - a) Ps 145:8-9: The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy. The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works.
  - b) Jer 31:3 says The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying, Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love: therefore *with lovingkindness have I drawn you.*