

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

John 8:1-11

Lesson #29

The Law and the Gospel

02/21/2016

Who would you follow?

The orthodox

Who honor
the Law of God

Who act justly
based on solid evidence

Who have authority
to judge

**Scribes &
Pharisees**

The outsider

Who ignores
the moral Law

Who overlooks
the clear evidence

Who oversteps
their authority

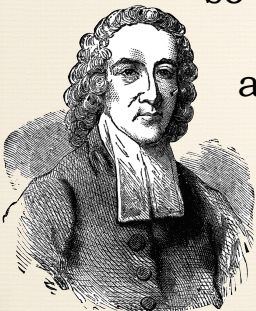
Jesus

John 8

"1 But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. 2 And early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people were coming to Him; and He sat down and began to teach them. 3 And the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery, and having set her in the midst, 4 they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in adultery, in the very act. 5 Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women; what then do You say?" 6 And they were saying this, testing Him, in order that they might have grounds for accusing Him."

"But Jesus stooped down, and with His finger wrote on the ground. 7 But when they persisted in asking Him, He straightened up, and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." 8 And again He stooped down, and wrote on the ground. 9 And when they heard it, they began to go out one by one, beginning with the older ones, and He was left alone, and the woman, where she was, in the midst. 10 And straightening up, Jesus said to her, "Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?" 11 And she said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go your way. From now on sin no more."

"There is perhaps no part of divinity attended with so much intricacy, and wherein orthodox divines do so much differ as stating the precise agreement and difference between the two dispensations of Moses and Christ."



The Works of Jonathan Edwards
p 465

"The relationship of the Old Testament Law and the New Testament Gospel of grace is controversial even among devout Christians."



The Works of Jonathan Edwards
p 465

**St. Augustine believed that
this text was removed
from the Gospel of John
by ascetics for fear that it
would promote disregard
for the moral Law.**

The uniqueness of this text.

1. It is found only in John's Gospel and not always in the same place - 5 different places.
2. There are questions about its authenticity.
 - It does not appear in any Greek manuscript of John until the 5th cent. AD.
 - Its vocabulary - 14 words, "Scribes & Pharisees" - do not appear elsewhere in John's writing.
 - The oldest translations (Latin, Syriac, Gothic) do not contain it.
 - The Greek commentators do not mention it until the 12th cent.
 - It seems to break up the flow from John 7:52-8:12.

The reason it is included in most Bibles.

1. It fits the general context of John 7-8.
 - John 8:12 "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the light of life."
2. It fits the context of Jesus' mission.
 - John 3:17 "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him."
3. It is cited by one of John's early disciples - Papias.

It most likely was not a part of the original writing of John's Gospel but is inspired.

What did Jesus write on the ground?

- We are not told & do not know for sure.
- My guess is that it is one of two things.
 1. **The names and sins of the self righteous leaders**

Jeremiah 17:13

"¹³ O Lord, the hope of Israel, all who forsake You will be put to shame. Those who turn away will be written down on earth (**on the ground?**), because they have forsaken the fountain of living water, even the Lord."

What did Jesus write on the ground?

- We are not told & do not know for sure.
- My guess is that it is one of two things.
 1. **The names and sins of the self righteous leaders**
 2. **The Great Commandment - to love God and your neighbor as yourself**

Exodus 31:18

"He gave Moses the two tablets . . . written by the finger of God."

Matthew 22

"³⁷ . . . 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸ 'This is the great and foremost commandment. ³⁹ The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

What are the issues in this passage?

The superficial issues and the deeper issues:

- The authority of the moral Law
and its ultimate purpose.
- The condemnation of Jesus
for the woman and the world.

2 Corinthians 5:21

"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

***This whole chapter is about
the stoning of Jesus.***

***John 8 begins with the threat to
stone the woman and it ends with
stones being thrown at Jesus.***

John 8

“⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.” ⁵⁹ Therefore **they picked up stones to throw at him**, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple,”

***The bigger story is that
Jesus would soon be
condemned by the
same leaders for not
just this sinful woman
but for all of us.***

1.

***It is not our sin that
ultimately keeps us
from reconciliation
with God but rather
what Jesus did to it
& how we apply it to
our selves & others.***

What are the issues in this passage?

The superficial issues and the deeper issues:

- The authority of the moral Law
and its ultimate purpose.
- The condemnation of Jesus
for the woman and the world.
- The exposure of a woman's sin
**and the greater sins of her
accusers.**

Some sins are greater than others.

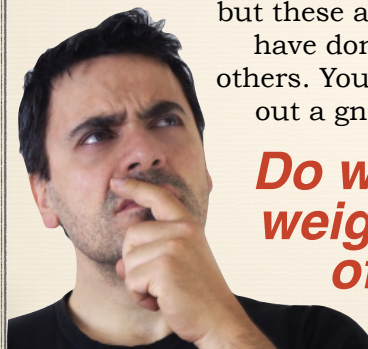
John 19:11

“Jesus answered (Pilate), “You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above; for this reason he who delivered Me to you has **the greater sin.**”

- Rahab (Hebrews 11:31) deception.
- Divorce (Matthew 5:31-32) damage control.
- The adulterous woman (John 8:1-11) hard hearted religious authorities.

Matthew 23:23

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!
For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and
have neglected the weightier provisions of the
law: justice and mercy and faithfulness;
but these are the things you should
have done without neglecting the
others. You blind guides! You strain
out a gnat and swallow a camel!”



***Do we neglect the
weightier matters
of the Law?***

Matthew 11:19

"The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, **a friend of tax collectors and sinners!**' Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds."

Jesus said

"Pick up your
cross
and follow me."

The Pharisees said

"Pick up your
stones
and follow us."

1 Chronicles 21:13 (2 Samuel 24:14)

"David said to Gad (a prophet of Israel), 'I am in great distress; please let me fall into the hand of the Lord, for His mercies are very great. But **do not let me fall into the hand of man.**'"

**Jesus and his
followers are
recognized
because they
carry a cross
not stones. ■**

Do you carry stones or a cross?

- **Are you more concerned about exposing sin than helping sinners?**
- **Do you listen to those who disagree with you just so you can find their errors?**
- **Do you feel good about yourself when the sins of those around you are exposed?**
- **Are you quick to condemn those who don't share your values or perspectives?**
- **Will you justify means to bring down your opponents, that you would never allow if the same means were used against you?**
- **Are your relationships motivated by fear?**

How do we lay down our stones?

- **We make a commitment** to stop being God's police - protecting His "fragile" image.
- **We look inside our heart** and confess our own sins -not those of our neighbors.
- **We make ourselves accountable to others** and not assume that we have life under successful management.
- **We view pride and rebellion as serious issues** and not excuse ourselves.
- **We cultivate faith, hope, and love, with forbearance** while we refuse to live in fear.