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**APOSTOLIC VERSE BY VERSE BIBLE STUDY**

**Straightway Church of Christ, Inc.**

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**"GO AND SIN NO MORE"**

**John 8:1-11**

***John 8:1, "Jesus went unto the mount of Olives."***

This was Jesus' favorite place to go when He withdrew from the crowds in Jerusalem. This mount is just outside the city walls and across the Kidron valley. The garden of Gethsemane is on the mount of Olives. This, also, would be on the way to Bethany where some of Jesus' friends lived. Jesus probably went to the mount to rest and pray.

***John 8:2, "And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them."***

The indication, here, is that Jesus sat down; and they gathered around Him sitting (like in a circle), and He taught them. Perhaps, He sat because His teaching was for long periods of time. It seems that possibly about daybreak Jesus went to the temple. When it speaks of the people, it does not mean the scribes and Pharisees or the priests, but the common people.

***John 8:3, "And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst,"***

While Jesus was in the temple teaching, the scribes and the Pharisees brought before him a woman caught in adultery. Since Jesus was being contested as a teacher of the law, scribes who were interpreters of the law came with the Pharisees. These scribes and Pharisees are doing everything in their power to catch Jesus doing anything that could be thought of as against their law, so they could accuse Him. This whole set-up is to try to trap Jesus. Why did they bother to bring her to Jesus? They were so good at accusing, why didn't they just take her to the priest? They had not admitted that Jesus had the right to judge anyone.

***John 8:4-5***

***4 "They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act."***

***5, "Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?"***

This calling Him Master here is in a mocking way. They had not recognized Jesus as their Lord or Master. According to the Law of Moses, all adulterers (male or female) were to be put to death by stoning not just such women. Since the man involved was not brought, the Jewish leaders revealed their malicious intent and their disregard for fairness required by the law.

***John 7:51 “Doth our law judge any man, before it hear him, and know what he doeth?”***

***Leviticus 20:10 “And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.”***

This was in the law because God wanted us to realize the seriousness of body sin. Christians' bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. You can see the serious nature of this sin, especially for a Christian. They have not heard of Jesus carrying out any punishment, and they feel that they will easily trap Him here.

***John 8:6, "This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not."***

The scribes and Pharisees were testing Jesus. If Jesus called for her stoning as an adulteress, this would put Him in defiance of the Roman government’s sole authority to try capital cases and carry out executions. If He chose to free her, He would be disobeying the Mosaic law. The law of Moses said to stone her, but they wanted to know what Jesus thought they should do. They assumed they had Jesus caught Jesus in a “gotcha”. Clearly, they had no interest in a righteous application of the law. As the author tells us, they were deceitfully trying to trap Jesus so that they might have evidence to accuse him. But they didn’t realize whom they were dealing with. Jesus stooped down and started writing on the ground with his finger. Just as the Ten Commandments had been “inscribed by the finger of God.” Whatever Jesus was writing was a subtle way of communicating to them that he himself was the divine author of the law. Writing on the dirt was also an allusion to the fact that the law had been given to mankind who had been created out of dust and were therefore vulnerable to weakness and sin. Many scholars believe he wrote in the sand the name of the male adulterer (who possibly was in the crowd of accusers) or the provocative question “Where is the man?” The bible does not say what was written.

***John 8:7, "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."***

When they persisted in questioning him, Jesus proposed a test of his own: The one without sin among you should be the first to throw a stone at her. He wanted to know which of them was qualified to judge her. The obvious answer? None of them were. Their hypocrisy was revealed because they had failed to produce everyone who was “caught in the act”.

***John 8:8, "And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground."***

Then he stooped down a second time to write with his finger, just as God had written the Ten Commandments on two tablets a second time after the Israelites had sinned and Moses smashed the first ones (Exodus 34:1). The second giving of the law meant God was giving his people a second chance just as he was about to do with this woman; something these hypocritical leaders were unwilling to do. The second writing could have either been some more of their sins, or it could have been the punishment required in Moses' law for their sins.

***Deuteronomy 19:16-19***

***16 If a false witness rise up against any man to testify against him that which is wrong;***

***17 Then both the men, between whom the controversy is, shall stand before the Lord, before the priests and the judges, which shall be in those days;***

***18 And the judges shall make diligent inquisition: and, behold, if the witness be a false witness, and hath testified falsely against his brother;***

***19 Then shall ye do unto him, as he had thought to have done unto his brother: so shalt thou put the evil away from among you.***

Jesus' statement takes the focus off the woman's sin and on their own sin. Jesus knew they were all guilty of sin. Without answering their question, Jesus has trapped them again. Jesus, by writing twice with His finger, was revealing symbolically that He was here fulfilling the same role God the Father fulfilled for Israel as the giver of the law.

***John 8:9, "And they which heard it, being convicted 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."***

Each man knew that he himself was guilty of the same or similar sin, which disqualified him from acting as a legitimate judge Because of their malicious intent, they would be subject to the same judgment they were seeking to impose on the woman.

***Matthew 7:1-6***

***1 Judge not, that ye be not judged.***

***2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.***

***3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?***

***4 Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?***

***5 Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.***

***6 Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.***

The scribes and Pharisees that heard Jesus knew they were guilty. They could not face their own sins being brought to light. Then they began to leave, beginning with the older ones, the ones whose conscience weighed on them longer. They all walked away one by one. They left without stoning her, being trapped by Jesus with their own wicked trap. Similar to Haman when he lied on Mordecai.

***Esther 7:9-10***

***9 And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king, Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who spoken good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman. Then the king said, Hang him thereon.***

***10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.***

***John 8:10-11***

***10 "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?"***

***11, "She said, No man, Lord, And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more."***

Jesus knew that according to the law; a person could be put to death only with two or more witnesses present. Strategically waiting until all her accusers had walked away, He stood up. Because there were no witnesses to condemn her to be stoned to death, Jesus could fully obey the Mosaic law in releasing the woman since there were no witnesses.

***Deuteronomy 19:15 “One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.”***

When only Jesus was left, he asked the woman two revealing questions. First “Where are those thine accusers?” and second “Hath no man condemned thee?” Both questions reveal the wisdom of Jesus who came to liberate us from the bondage of the law by fulfilling its requirements.

***Matthew 5:17-18***

***17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.***

***18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.***

Jesus says that He came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets. In other words, the predictions of the Prophets concerning the Messiah would be realized in Jesus; the holy standard of the Law would be perfectly upheld by Christ, the strict requirements personally obeyed, and the ceremonial observances finally and fully satisfied. In fact, the ceremonies, sacrifices, and other elements of the Old Covenant were only “types” good things that are coming, not the realities themselves.

***Hebrews 10:1 “For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.”***

In His fulfillment of the Law and Prophets, Jesus obtained our eternal salvation. Jesus has done that for us, once and for all.

***Colossians 2:14 “Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;”***

Once she said, “No”, Jesus made a staggering statement: Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin anymore. As in this case, forgiveness always precedes the command to sin no more, and forms its greatest motivation. This is not a license to commit adultery. These men had no right to judge her, because they were just as guilty as she was. This woman is standing guilty before the Judge of all the world. This is a woman who is not a believer. She is in the same state of being a sinner as we are before we come to Jesus. Jesus came not to condemn the world, but to save it. He condemns her sin, but not her.

Notice that he demonstrated grace and mercy to her (removing her condemnation) before he told her to start living right.

***John 3:16-18***

***16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.***

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

***18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.***

A true understanding of grace and mercy does not endorse or promote sin; rather, it’s designed to produce gratitude and holiness. We do not obey God to earn forgiveness. Rather, grace and mercy are to motivate our obedience. When we truly understand God’s amazing grace, we do not go out and merely sin less, we go out and seek to sin no more!

**QUESTIONS**

1. Where does Jesus go in verse 1?
2. What garden is located there?
3. What time of day did Jesus come to the temple?
4. What indicates that Jesus taught for a good while?
5. Who brought the woman to Jesus?
6. What were they accusing her of?
7. What name did they call Jesus that they surely did not mean?
8. Why did they bring her to Jesus?
9. What did Moses' law say was the penalty for this sin?
10. What did Jesus do, instead of answering them?
11. What did Jesus say to the accusers?
12. What convicted the accusers?
13. What questions did Jesus ask the woman?
14. What name did she call Jesus by?
15. What did Jesus tell her?