

FOLLOWING THE MESSAGE

- 1) The Setting for Ch 8 is in the temple courtyard, within the court of women. This is the location where the treasury was situated and in immediate proximity to where the Sanhedrin held session.
- 2) vs 3 tell us the early morning teaching was suddenly interrupted by Scribes and Pharisees bursting into the setting. Scribes are sometimes called lawyers in the Bible; they were the experts in Law.
- 3) The severity and wickedness of adultery can not be over stated. The grievous action of betrayal which accompanies this activity is still forbidden by God. The prohibition of this activity includes both those in marriage and out of marriage.
- 4) At the time of Christ, adultery was considered so grievous that under the law it was a capital offense punishable by death.
- 5) vs 4 The guilt of this woman is indisputable; she's been *"caught in the act."* Also, there is no indication Jesus challenged the charge.
- 6) The accusers pose a question which creates an impossible dilemma and they demand a ruling from Jesus. However, He is not a member of the court and there's no legal difficulty. Why are they consulting a Rabbi?
- 7) Previously Jesus has already taken a position on adultery, He condemned not only the act, ...but also the attitude that breeds it in Mt 5:27 *"You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY';²⁸ but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart."*
- 8) If Jesus refused to confirm the death penalty for the woman, he'd be charged with contradicting God. However, if he confirmed a ruling of death, His reputation for compassion toward sinners would be crushed.
- 9) The challenge presented to Jesus raises a deeper issue; how are God's justice and mercy reconciled? How does a Holy God forgive sinners without violating His own Law?
- 10) We know God is Holy (Lev. 11:44-45), and His "Law is holy" (Rom. 7:12) According to Romans 3:20, the Law knows nothing of forgiveness. Rather, it declares, *"The soul who sins will die"* because *"all who have sinned under the Law will be judged by the Law"* **Rom. 2:12**
- 11) The answer is through the Lord Jesus. His sacrificial death fully satisfied the demands of God's justice; *For what the Law could not do, weak as it*

was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh **Rom. 8:3**

12) Those who put their faith in Him are "justified" because; *"He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed"* **1 Peter 2:24**

13) In Jesus, God's Justice & Mercy are harmonized.

14) Vs 7 Jesus stood, no doubt looking them directly in the eye with a piercing focus. This same group will soon be gathered around him calling out for his death in only a matter of months.

15) vs 8 Jesus response puts the dilemma back on the accusers. Under the Law, the requirement was that the witnesses to a capital offense were to be the first to throw stones at the guilty person (Deut. 13:9)

16) vs 9 Convicted by their own conscience; accusers quietly leave Jesus has not minimized the woman's guilt, nor is he denying the power of the Law. He is revealing that the accusers were un-qualified to be her judges or executioners

17) It's ironic to note; those who came to put Jesus to shame left ashamed and those who came to condemn, left condemned.

GREEK WORDS USED TODAY

Agō (ag'-o) properly to *lead*; to *drive* :- bring (forth), carry
Peirazō (pi-rad'-zo) to *scrutinize*, *entice*:- examine, prove, tempt

FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

Do you personally have "stones" you need to lay down? Are you holding a judgmental position against someone who is in need of your forgiveness?

God did not pass judgment on her, even though He alone could have. But he did command her to do what he has told others already; ***"Sin no more"***... what is in the past is in the past. Do not carry it into your future!

Forgiveness from God demands a clean break with sin, encountering Jesus has always demanded transformation.

BRUSH STROKE- Ch 8 paints a spectacular portrait of GOD's Grace, Wisdom and most of all His Forgiveness