

## Writing in the Sand Lesson

Taught at VF Jan 2025

John 8

**<sup>2</sup> Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them. <sup>3</sup> Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, <sup>4</sup> they said to Him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. <sup>5</sup> Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?” <sup>6</sup> This they said, testing Him, that they might have *something* of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with *His* finger, as though He did not hear.**

**<sup>7</sup> So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, “He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.” <sup>8</sup> And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. <sup>9</sup> Then those who heard *it*, being convicted by *their* conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest *even* to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. <sup>10</sup> When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?”**

**<sup>11</sup> She said, “No one, Lord.”**

**And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”**

Went up to the Mount of Olives. Went to a high place before he came down to the temple or church. Often you may need to go to the mountain top before you come to church and Bible study. Because you may need to have a mountain top experience with God before you come deal with the church folk and/or difficult situations.

- I don't know what to expect so I need to pray before I get here.
- I don't know if the person next to me is going to praise so I praise Him in advance.
- Don't know if God will be glorified when I get here so I worship Him before I get here.
- Jesus knew the temple wasn't perfect, knew he would run into 2-3 crazy people when he got there, knew there would be some haters there, knew there would be some fake and phony folks there, knew he would find a hypocrite or two.....but the important thing is Jesus went to church any way. Even though it wasn't perfect, he went to church.
- If you ain't better than Jesus you best get your butt to church.

Jesus went to church because people were showing up to get taught. Some people were coming to get a word. Teaching was going on in the temple. Jesus gets there early. If you start out early, Jesus will already be there waiting on you with a word of instruction. Where will he show up early? In your temple.

Sure enough....here they come....haters...and enemies came to him with a woman who was caught committing a crime. They interrupt the Bible study with a question...not a problem if under right motivation.

- They call him master but didn't mean it. Not everybody asking you questions are asking them for the right reasons.
- The purpose of bringing all this stuff up and accusing her, was to try and get Jesus off his game.
  - a. Commentary Note (DG) – the question they pose is a trap. Either way Jesus answers, they will try to use against him to accuse him? The enemy works like that. If he says let her go, he violates the religious law. If he says stone her, he can be accused of violating Roman law.
  - b. Leviticus 20:10

But while he heard their accusations against the woman, Jesus' response is to ignore them. Writes on the ground and makes like he didn't hear them. Some stuff you don't need to hear because it will get you off your game.

They continued asking, kept it up. The prosecution was relentless. They were slick and skilled and knew the law or at least how to use the law to their advantage. Some folk will try and mess you up just to try and get back at somebody else. Still there even though you try to ignore them.

- Take your time before you answer your haters. And lift yourself up before you speak.
- The prosecution was on it....but she had a good defense attorney who knew the law too. Declares that they without sin start the stoning.
- Deuteronomy 17:7.
- (DG) There is still a place for exposing and rebuking and directly dealing with the sins of others in God's family, but it must always be done with a heart that recognizes itself as a forgiven sinner. When done right, confronting sin is done more often with tears and a broken heart than with anger and condemnation.
- Observation: Carolyn – be careful how we see the women. Be careful judging people with the same judgment as the crowd.
- ChatGPT – they knew that they were not in a position to act as just and righteous witnesses. Where was the man?
- Meaning, you can't stone her for this crime if you are guilty. This smells like a setup.
- Then he went back to writing on the ground.
  - a. Avoids the trap by not going where they were trying to get him to go. Changes up their plans.
  - b. He shifted the focus back to them.
  - c. Check yourself, if you are clean, go ahead.
- When they heard that, it convicted them. One by one, from the oldest to the youngest. Not one of the original accusers was left. They knew they were not righteous.
  - a. Jesus finally was left alone. Expiration date associated with these clowns.

- b. Do what Jesus did and your accusers will go away. Give them a word.
- c. How to put someone out of the stone throwing business. That crowd is still there. Find the scripture and response that takes the person back to checking themselves.

Now, let's take a different approach and do some role playing. Let's assume that we are in the position of the woman. Have you ever been in this position or circumstance?

The woman is caught in a mistake, a sin, a problem. Woman is in trouble, she got caught breaking the law.

- Accusations are brought against her.
- What she was doing secretly behind closed doors, now it seemed everybody knew and folk were talking about it.
- She is embarrassed. She probably thinks she will never recover from this. This is going to destroy her future.
- She gets caught, but she wasn't breaking the law by herself, somebody else was in this with her, but now she's the only one being called out, she's the only one having to deal with this, she's the only one being confined because of this. While she's caught, her friend is still free...it don't seem fair

Has anyone ever had to deal with this kind of an embarrassing and hopeless situation? How would you feel if you were the woman?

While it looks very bad, there is some good news. They brought her to Jesus. While everyone else is against her and accusing her, look at the benefits of standing before Jesus.

- While everybody else was listening to these accusations, Jesus made like he didn't hear them. Their accusations didn't cause Jesus to turn on her, their noise didn't distract Jesus, he made like he didn't hear them....that's good news!
  - a. Rev 12:10 says, "And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ, for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night." The enemy is constantly accusing us but if Jesus ain't listening, then God ain't either.
  - b. Your friends might listen, family might be listening, wife might be listening, kids might have heard about it, your old pastor might have found out by now, but ain't it nice to know that the one who can change your future and save you from eternal death is acting like He ain't hearing it....that's good news. I'm going to start acting like I don't hear it either.
  - c. Because as long as you are standing before Jesus, what you did yesterday or even 5 minutes ago, I don't need to hear as long as you're standing humbly before our Lord.

She is now on trial. Jesus lifted himself up and only saw the woman now. Asks her a question....where are your accusers? There was nothing she had to do to get her accusers to leave....Jesus dealt with them on her behalf. Something about her situation might help some of us.

- She was still there. She didn't try and run away and escape or hide. If she left that place too soon, she wouldn't have gotten her word and would not have been set free.
- The accusers were gone so it only really matters what Jesus thinks. Your accusers can't bring you salvation. She get's saved after they leave so why are you still dealing with people who can't bring you salvation, joy, hope, peace. We like drama.
- She stayed there to see what Jesus thought. Problem is, too many of us run away and escape before we hear what Jesus has to say about it. You could have had peace if you just stayed a little longer to see what Jesus has to say about your condition.
- When the haters leave, find some alone time with Jesus.
  - d. Jesus was without sin and could have cast the first stone.
- Her answer, no man and calls Him Lord. Jesus doesn't condemn her and gives her instructions for her new season....go, leave that place, go someplace else, and don't sin anymore. Meaning she was to not sin any more, she must have been sinning before this encounter.

This is great news, I thank God that she got busted and caught because her testimony has set me free. I needed to hear this. Her getting caught was the best thing that could have happened to us.

- She was guilty; Jesus never said she was innocent. She didn't deserve life. She didn't deserve another chance she was guilty. Just like this woman, we are all guilty of something.
- You know because of our guilt, we don't deserve another chance, don't deserve to be able to preach this gospel, don't deserve new life and a new hope. Talking about a new and better season....we don't deserve a new season. We don't deserve God's best.
- Even though she didn't deserve it, Jesus forgives her and gives her another chance with instructions for a new season.
- Go, leave this place, this attitude, this season of sin. Set's her free!

I'm glad she got caught because it set her free. I'm glad she got caught because it set me free. Because if Jesus can do it for her, he can and wants to do it for me. Let's do what she did.

- Let your problem bring you to Jesus.
- Ignore the accusations and focus on Jesus.
- Stay humble and don't leave until you receive a word that sets you free.
- Act on the word and turn from the old you, to the new you. You can make it, no longer bound, you can be free.

Purpose of Jesus' ministry...to bring sinners to repentance.



The enemy probably has already told you because you are guilty, you can't make it, won't get through this, your best days are over, but the devil is a liar because Jesus ain't hearing all that, because you have a future in Christ, and when you are with Jesus. Your future looks bright!

If we hadn't got caught, we might still be in sin, still not be free, still on the way to hell.

- But what did he write in the sand. Something he wrote and what he said caused the haters to leave.
  - a. Jeremiah 17:13.
  - b. Nothing written in the sand or the earth will last for long. You want your name written in the Book of Life in heaven.
  - c. Rev 20:15 – whosoever was not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.
  - d. Where is your name written tonight? In the earth, in the sand, or in the Book of Life. Choose life tonight.
  - e. Some of us just need to know that we can go.....we can stop bringing up old stuff. Some of you still having to deal with conversations and accusations of what happened yesterday; but when you stand before Christ, he doesn't bring up your past, only interested in your future when you confess and stand humbly before him.

Rom 6:1, Isa 55:7

Perhaps the reason we in here right now is because we needed a better defense attorney. I don't trip now like I used to when haters come and accuse me because I've got a good defense attorney named Jesus.

- Old folk used to say he's a friend to the friendless, a doctor when I'm sick, a financial counselor when I'm broke, a lawyer in the court room.
- Jesus is everything to me.