

“If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her” (JOHN 8:7, NIV).

## Bible Study 53 Condemned No More

BY LEOLA FLOREN

Read John 8:1-11.

Why did the teachers of the law and the Pharisees bring a woman caught in adultery before Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

According to Old Testament standard, what should have been the penalty for her sin? (*Leviticus 20:10, Deuteronomy 22:22-24*) \_\_\_\_\_

You can't blame them for trying. Here they were, the religious leaders of the community, well educated and listed in the Who's Who of Jerusalem. But who did the people flock to hear at dawn in the temple courtyard? Jesus. Jesus—the carpenter with the rough hands, the dirty feet and no graduate degree from Rabbi State University. No wonder they were out to get Him. But how?

Ah. You can almost sense their excitement as they hatched a plan. Their spies would follow a woman with a wild reputation, catch her in the very act of immorality, then drag her before Jesus and all the people and say, “OK, Mr. Know-It-All. The Law of Moses says this woman should be stoned. What do you say?”

Jesus couldn't win! If He said, “Stone her,” then His message of God's love was blown to bits. On the other hand, if He let her off scot-free, He was defying the Scriptures. At last, they had Jesus right where they wanted Him. Or did they?

In verse 6, what did Jesus do? \_\_\_\_\_

What was their response? (v. 7) \_\_\_\_\_

Why was Jesus' reply in verse 7 so startling?

What do you think Jesus may have written in the dirt?

Who were the first to walk away after they had read what Jesus wrote? \_\_\_\_\_

What two questions did Jesus ask the woman? \_\_\_\_\_

Of all those present in the temple courtyard that morning, only Jesus was qualified to judge the woman who had committed adultery. Only Jesus, as the sinless Son of God, had the power to condemn her or forgive her. She must have trembled as she stood before Him, embarrassed, frightened and uncertain of what He would do.

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As a female, it is unlikely that she could read what Jesus wrote in the dirt. How amazed she must have been as her accusers walked away, one by one. And how nervous she must have been when Jesus stood, looked her in the eye and said, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you" (John 8:10, NIV)?

"No one, sir," she said (v. 11).

**What do you suppose she thought might happen next?**

**In verse 11, what statement indicates that Jesus forgave the woman?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Who has the authority to forgive sin?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Why was Jesus accused of blasphemy? (Matthew 9:2-8)** \_\_\_\_\_

**In John 8:11, what did Jesus instruct the woman to do?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name another instance in which Jesus encouraged someone to leave his or her life of sin.**

Instead of condemning the woman, Jesus forgave her and encouraged her. If Jesus has forgiven someone for his or her sins, how can it be our role to condemn the person?

The *on mission* Christian tries to help sinners reconcile with God, to restore a right relationship. Yes, that requires repentance, and there will be times when we need to remind others of the importance of obedience. As we encourage them to turn away from wrongdoing, just as Jesus told the woman to sin no more, let's remember that we, too, are sinners in need of forgiveness.

**What do you think became of the woman?**

**After her encounter with Jesus, to whom would the woman have been an effective witness?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Who in your life has sinned and been forgiven but still suffers guilt and remorse because of his or her failure?**

**What can you do this week to encourage that person?**