

Title: What God Says About Adultry <sup>am</sup>

Text: ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ John 8:1-11

Take your Bibles, please, and turn to John chapter 8. John chapter 8. I am speaking on the subject of WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT ADULTRY.

Jesus said to His generation: This is an adultrious generation." The History of that period indicate that divorce and immorality were wrose then present statistics in America. <sup>But</sup> We are fast approaching the days of Rome, ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~. Jesus said it was an adultrious generation.

The book of 2 Peter cahapter 2 tells us that in the last days before the reuturn of Christ, it will also be a generation full adultery. It even says that teachers, supposely christian ones, will teach the kind of doctrine that will permit that atmosphere to exist. And not only permit it, but they themselves will be guilty of such. Jesus said that it was an adultreous generation in his day. The Bible perdicts that befदore the ~~return~~ <sup>Moat</sup> of Christ the generatiion of people will be like in the days of ~~Jesus~~. It will be full of adultery and immorality.

So, needless to say, this passage in John 8 is relative, ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~. It is dealing with a problem, today, that was also present in the days of our Lord. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ It is not an easy problem. And I hope I can help you understand this portion of scripture. John chapter 8:1-11.

(Read John 8:1-11)

Join with me in a moment of prayer

Father we thank you againfor your Word. We thank you for this trmendous story in the Life of our Lord. We thank you for the love and the compassion that we see deminstrated here. We realize that in this world there is much of this sin. And we are speaking about a subject that is very important to every one of us. We ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ realize that in the days of our Lord, our lord lived in a generation that was <sup>filled</sup> ~~filled~~ with ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ adultery and immorality. And we see the time of the end fast approaching as we watch the world being subjegated to <sup>sexual</sup> ~~sinful~~ immorality once again. Father we pray that our eyes will be lefted up to thee. We would see only Jesus..Amen

(1C) I would like you to notice the atmosphere into which this woman was brought. In Vs 1 and 2 a couple of things hit me about that atmosphere.

(1D) <sup>Notice</sup> One, was that Jesus sat down in the Temple <sup>was. and</sup> He was teaching <sup>people</sup> them and ~~the people~~ <sup>they</sup> were really responding. The Bible says "all the people." I take that to mean all the people in the Temple area. That great big area. Almost like a market place of activity. And all the people in that area had sat down, which was the custom in that day, and He began teaching them. And people were responding. What an atmosphere to bring a woman taken in adultery. I ask you ~~not~~ <sup>right</sup> away to think about that. What could possible have been the motivation? As the crowds were now coming to him. The same crowds that were coming to him in chapter 7. And they made a definite attempt then to sieze Jesus as the Chief Priests sent the officers of the Temple to capture ~~him~~ <sup>him</sup>. But if you will remember from chapter 7 ~~these~~ ~~officers~~ these officers returned and said "that never did a man speak like Jesus."

The thing that ~~hite~~ <sup>this</sup> hite me about the atmosphere into which woman of adultery was brought was, here, Jesus again was teaching the people. And the woaman was brought into his midst.

(2D) Something else in Vs 1 I would like you to notice: At the end of chapter 7 verse 53 it says that "everyone" speaking of the Sanhedrian, "everyone went to his home." And Vs 1 says "that Jesus went to the Mount of Olives." "And early in the morning he came again into the Temple."

It just hite me again, and I hope that I am not reading into the passage. But the Bible says that the Son of man has no where to lay his haad. Everyone went to his home. But Jesus went to the Mount of OLIVES.

And I really believe, as is so often the case throughout the Gsspels, that Jesus went there to spend time, alone, with God in prayer. I wander if <sup>his</sup> night was not spent in prayer and preparation for the tremendous ministry of the next day. But he went out to the mount of Olives. And he probable prayed and slept out there. And the son of man had no where to lay his head. And he returned in the morning to the Tempel area to teach.

For the son of man came to seek and to save. And there he was teaching the good news inspite of the opposition. Jesus had the good news to tell.

And what an atmosphere to bring a woman into. Right in the midst of the public eye. All the people seating there listening. There certainly wasn't any concern about dealing with a person in private. Or, not trying to embarass her. Instead these religious leaders brought her right into the misdst of all these people.

(2C) Secondly, I would like you to notice in Vs 3-5 the charge that the leaders brought against this woman. What was the charge that was made by the scribes and Pharisees against this woman? Two things I would like you to notice here.

(1D) Number one, <sup>Recharge</sup> it was based on <sup>some</sup> proof that they had. Vs 4 says: "Teacher this woman has been caught in adultery, in the very act."

According to the Bible these religious leaders brought a woman and accused her <sup>d</sup>adultery that was based on definte proof. They had caught her in the very act of adultyary.

Now, the thing that crossed my mind was: "How in the world did that ever happen?" What is the motive of these religious leaders who some how caught a woman in the very act of adultyary and brought her in the morning, which by the way was not customary, to someone who is teaching all the people and set her in their midst?

Now, a quick word about the meaning of adultyary. Adultyary according to O.T. law, and you must understand this in order to understand why they said what they said. <sup>But</sup> According to the law adultyary refers to a sexual act committed between married people or between a married man and a woman who was engaged to a man. That is the only cases of adultyary in the Bible.

~~Now,~~ Now, the reason the engaged <sup>man</sup> ~~she~~ is considered is because the Jews held the engagement period to be just as powerful and binding as the marriage.

As a matter of fact it took a bill of divorcement to break an engagement under Jewish law. ~~The~~ The same kind of bill of divorcement that you use in marriage. ~~So, it was between married people.~~

And the reason they considered this so severe was because they believed that married people were violating a <sup>vowel</sup> fidelity and bond that was pledged in the marriage ceremony. That the real issue was compromising with a vowel that you had given.

Now, we don't make out marriages, today, after a Jewish marriage. But it is the Biblical principles that we are concerned with. And it is interesting to me to see the great move and the great trend of our day to eliminate the commitment and vowel part of the marriage ceremony. I remind you that is exactly the issue that God brings up constantly. And the reason adultery was considered ~~the~~ <sup>the severest</sup> severe of all the sexual sins was because it was breaking the covenant and the vowel that a person was making.

You see, you were not only making that vowel with the individual you were marrying. But you were, also, making it between yourself and God. It was a commitment to God to pledge yourself, your whole life, to one person. And marriage is a very sacred ~~bond~~ bond in the Bible. And it should be to us, Today

So, this woman had been caught in the act of violating that. And according to the Bible they had some evidence against her that result in severe consequences.

But, I ask the question. WAS SHE SET UP FOR THIS? WAS SHE SET UP? Could it possible be that this woman was well known for her adulterious acts and that is how they could easily get to her in the morning and bring her and set her in the midst of Jesus teaching all these people.

Now, we are not told all these little facts. But, what I am trying to suggest to you is their motives were totally ~~wrong~~ wrong...Totally... These <sup>Religious leaders</sup> men brought her in an hour when they shouldn't have brought her. It was in the morning when he was teaching. They brought her into a situation that they should not have done. They brought her into the public eye. Before there had been a trail. Before there had been a proof of the evidence. They said they had the proof. They said they caught her in the act. The question was HOW....You see, that was something the courts should handle.

That was not only a violation of Jewish law, *it* was a violation of Roman law. In spite of the wide spread knowledge of adultery, there was still a persons rights under Roman law. And even though the days were corrupt. A person could not be put on public display without a trial...That was Jewish law That was also Roman law.

(2D) Now, the second thing that I would like you to notice about there  
charge ~~charge~~ was that it was based upon the punishment that was required according  
to O.T. law. And they felt they were right for doing ~~that~~ *what they were doing because* It was based on the punishment that was required in O.T. law.

Vs 5 says "Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women; what then do you say?"

Now, obviously they ~~are~~ *were* testing Jesus. But let's look at the accuracy of these remarks. What does the Bible teach is the punishment of the O.T. law for adultery?

Take your Bibles, please, and turn to Leviticus chapter 20. Leviticus chapter 20 verse 10.....(Read Vs 10).....

Now, that is pretty strong. You are probably thankful that it is ~~not~~ *so* strong ~~for~~ today. But that is what the Bible says.

Turn, please, to Deuteronomy chapter 22. Deuteronomy chapter 22 beginning with Vs 20.....(Read SVs 20-29)

I would like to comment just briefly because I believe it is very, very important. The Bible talks about these things when a lot of us don't want to. And thank God it does. Because we need the instruction of the Word.

I firmly believe that in the case where young people have sinned and violated the Word of God, even before marriage, according to God's O.T. law when you have violated that *law,* you are responsible to follow through in marriage. You ought to *be* thankful that you don't have to pay 50 shekels of silver. And you are going to pay the consequences of that. But I thank God for his forgiveness. And God can change you. And God loves you and forgives you.

But listen, if you are setting out there ~~and~~ *young men* and you are guilty of this and you are refusing to follow through on your commitment, The Bible calls that

agreat sin and a great abomination in the sight of the Lord. And this is only one of many passages.

But, notice, again the treatment and seriousness of this sin. In the case of adultery both the man and the woman are to die. They are to be stone to death.

Now, of course the penalty of the law is death. If you have sinned once you have offended the whole thing. The Bible says in James 2:10 if a person stumbles in one point of the law, he is guilty of all the law.

*But* I am so thankful that when Jesus Christ died on the cross, he paid once and for all the pentle of the O.T. law. That is a tremendous message to preach. Jesus ~~did~~ paid the pentle of the law. And we praise the Lord for that/

*also remind you that according to the N.T.*

But the law is spiritual, and Holy, and good and right. It is still as wrong, today, as it was in the days of our Lord and the days of the O.T. to commit adultery. God still treats it as a very serious crime. It is a serious sin. It is still a violation of the commitment and trust we are making not only with one another, but with God. So, you must never play this down. And I believe you must understand that when you come to John 8. Many people compromise with the background in order to deal with John 8. Christ was not over looking the sin of that woman. There is another issue at stake. These men in their self- righteousness brought that woman. They felt they were doing right. Because the O.T. law said to stone her. And they had the proof. They had caught her in the very act.

They may not have been handling it right. And we know they were trying to test Jesus. But they believed they were correct. That that woman should die. I don't believe Jesus said to them: "Don't throw stones at her."

And if you read that! You are not reading it correctly. There is another issue that Jesus is dealing with.

Now, come back to John chapter 8.....

*ant* Some people have argued because of this that therefore it is right to challenge ~~and~~ <sup>any</sup> consequences of any act. For example: if our law demands a jail sentence for murdering someone .....They argue this way...

"He who is without hate in his heart, let him be the first to bring the judgement." People use what Jesus said to indicate that we might compromise what the law says. No, we may not. We cannot ever compromise what the law says. Jesus is dealing with a deeper issue.

Now, in Deut. chapter 24:1-4, the Bible says that a man was willing or able to put away his wife if he found some uncleanness in her. He could give her a bill of divorcement. But in Matthew chapter 5:31-32 our Lord Jesus taught that a man is not to put away his wife except it be for fornication,

And if he did and married someone else he was committing adultery. And the person who committed adultery who was put away then married again they were committing adultery again.

Our Lord Jesus indicated that it was the intent of the law: the moral intent of the law which was the real issue. For example: he said if a man lusts in his heart to commit adultery, he has already done it and committed it....If he hates in his heart, he has already committed murder.

So, if you don't get that background and put it together, you are going to draw some wrong conclusions.

I don't believe Jesus is excusing sin ~~for~~ at all. He never does. And Jesus is a righteous Judge. But He is also the one who paid for sin. He is dealing with moral intent and motivation and purpose.

Both in the lives of the Pharisees and in the life of the woman.

(30) Now, the third thing that I would like you to notice is there attempt to accuse Jesus. Look at Vs 5...."What then do you say?" This they were saying to test him, in order that they might have grounds for accusing him."

Now, why were they trying to do this? Obviously, because of chapter 7. They had set out their plans to kill Jesus. They didn't like his message. They didn't like his claims. And they were trying to get rid of him.

So, they felt they had him in a trap. I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU: WHAT WAS THE TRAP?.....

According to the Bible they were testing him. They wanted to accuse him....Now, how would Jesus get into a trap over this?.....

Well, the answer is simple if you know the times. Because the Romans said to the Jews that even though your law says you can put people to death because of adultery, no one will be put death unless the Romans say so.

It was an issue of the civil government over the ~~religious~~ religious government.

*who had authority*

And so the Jews were constantly festering under that burden. They could never issue judgement. [That was, also, true in the crucifixion of Jesus. That is why Jesus had to go on trial before the Roman officials. That is why Pilate who found no fault in Jesus was stuck between a rock and a hard place. And he said: "What shall I do with him."

And ~~the~~ crowd cried: "crucify him, crucify him." And so, Pilate compromise and went along with the crowd.

But the civil government is greater than the religious. So, here is the problem that they are making Jesus deal with. IF HE SAYS TO GO AHEAD AND KILL HER AND THROW THE STONES AT HER LIKE THE LAW SAYS, THEN HE IS VIOLATING THE ROMAN CIVIL LAW. And if he ignores the Mosaic law and says that it isn't necessary, then he would be in trouble with the Jews who believed in reality that the Mosaic law was the highest law.

Now, what did Jesus do? And I find this interesting because there is a woman involved. A woman who was being publically embarrassed. And so, Jesus instead of dealing with either of those issues, the Bible says he stooped down to the ground and with his finger ~~and~~ began to write.

(40) So, in the fourth place, I would like you to see the action Jesus took. What could he have possibly been writing? There is a 10th century manuscript which is Armenian in origin which gives us some insight. This manuscript has the entire 8th chapter of John with an interesting addition. It says that when Jesus was writing on the ground he was writing the sins of every individual that was there.

Now, that is only opinion. It is not the word of God. But it is a widely accepted viewpoint. ~~Now,~~ *But* there is no scripture which tells us what he wrote on the ground.

But, I have my own ~~opinion~~ *idea*...Do you remember when the Mosaic law was given, HOW WAS IT GIVEN?.....DO YOU REMEMBER?.....



The Bible says the finger of God wrote it on those tabolets of stone. And I just wander if Jesus by the act of writing with his finger on the ground was indicating what he indicated before, his authority in O.T. law, and a remainder that God, who was in charge of giving the law in the first place, knew their hearts and knew exactly what to do.

*And neither does anyone see. It is all*

I don't know what ~~he~~ wrote. ~~And I am not even going to attempt an~~  
*speculation* ~~on~~. But what ever he wrote, they got the message....They got the message

**(60)** Everyone wants to know what he wrote. But, let find out, rather, what the results are. For that is really the application for our lives.

In Vs 7 we have the answer that Jesus gave to their persistence.

Try to picture this sence in your minds eye. In the temple area he was teaching the people. And a woman is brought in. Then he gets down and starts writing on the ground. And they keep bugging him all the time.

"Hay, Jesus we ask you this question. Now, how about an answer."

So, he stands up and says, "HE WHO IS WITHOUT SIN AMONG YOU, LET HIM BE THE FIRST TO THROW A STONE AT HER."

Now, some people say that Jesus was unfair. Because, obviously, every body has sin. But, someone must ~~issue~~ *execute* judgement. This would mean that no judge, no President, no government, no one could possible execute law. Because everyone has sin in their life.

I don't believe it is just sin in general at all. I believe that what our Lord was teaching...was that if you are guilty of the same thing you have no right to cast a stone. But, if you are not, go ahead...I really believe that.

Most Bible teachers believe that the issue here is the sin of adultery. History tells us that it was common in that day. Even among the religious leaders. Jesus said ~~to~~ *about* the scribes and Pharisees: "You are an adulteous generation." So, Jesus is saying, "Listen, any man with out this sin in his life, cast the first stone.

He wasn't saying: "Don't judge her." He was saying "whoever is not guilty, judge her."

**(60)** And the Bible says that they all left....This is the *6th* point. The effect  
on the accusers

The Bible says they were convicted and they all left from the oldest to the youngest.

Now, you cannot be convicted by your conscience unless you are guilty. And that is another reason why I believe ~~Jesus~~ Jesus knowing all things and demonstrating his power, says: "Listen, if any one of you don't have this sin in your life, go ahead and cast the stone." And they left one by one. Not as a whole group. But one by one by one they slowly drifted away. And Jesus was left alone with this woman.

*(7c)*  
*(7d)* The seventh thing that I want you to see ~~her~~, and the most beautiful of all, is the acceptance of this woman by our Lord Jesus Christ, in Vs 10-11.

There are <sup>3</sup> ~~four~~ things that I want you to see. *about this acceptance*

*(1)* One, his refusal to leave her when the others did. Did you notice that? Jesus was left alone and the woman standing there in his midst. He refused to leave her as others had done. He had a perfect right, ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> to accuse her. ~~He wasn't ashamed to be in her presence. He had no cause as they did.~~ *But He didn't* ~~But, he knew he had to deal with her in her time of need.~~

This was no time to shun this woman. This was no time to condemn her. She had already been publically exposed for her sin.

*out* The Bible says so often that Jesus was with the publicans and sinners. It also says the reason the religious leaders hated him so much was because he was with the publicans and sinners. He loved them. He taught them. They heard him gladly, says the Bible. People felled with sin would set at his feet and feasted upon his words.....WHY?.....Because Christ has the message of forgiveness, not condemnation.

John 3:17 says that God sent his son into the world not to condemn the world; but that the world should be saved through him..... He who believes not in him is condemned already because he has not believed on the name of the Son of God.

There is no reason any of us should be condemned for our sin. But ~~if~~ *already been* if we refuse Christ we have ~~been~~ ~~condemned~~ ~~to be~~ condemned. ~~And we will~~ ~~be~~. We shall be judged severely by an eternal God who knows all things.

But it struck me <sup>in terms of ~~us~~ <sup>us</sup></sup> as believers. For we live in a rotten world. I preached a sermon in my former church. And in that sermon I <sup>Talking about The purpose of The church and I said</sup> ~~said~~ that we ought to change the name of the church to: FOR SINNERS ONLY.... And a number of people in the church got upset...

Listen, people, this church is really a hospital. We are all sinners saved by grace. Any time we set in this audience and think that we are better than someone else who is out there felled with sin and a broken life, we had better get on our knees before God and seek his forgiveness.

It is self-righteousness that will hinder the freedom of the gospel of Christ. We need the kind of love and compassion of Jesus that was willing to stay there with that woman and not condemn her. Jesus loved her and wanted her to experience forgiveness. <sup>Do We Love People - and desire That They Exercise forgiveness</sup>

(29) The second thing I want you to notice about ~~her~~ his acceptance of this woman is her recognition of his authority and true identity. And don't miss this. Listen, friends, this woman got saved....

No where do I read that the religious leaders called Jesus "LORD." But I read it when people get saved. When the blind man gets saved in chapter 9, he comes to that conclusion and calls Jesus "LORD."

And notice what this woman says in vs 11. "And she says, NO, ONE, LORD." No one is accusing me LORD....Tremendous statement.

The Bible says in Romans 10:9 "if you will confess with your mouth Jesus as LORD, you will be saved.".....

And I believe in that statement we see the salvation of that woman... She recognized who Jesus was....

(30) Third, I notice that Jesus did not condemn her. He could have condemned her. She was guilty. But he did not. And I don't believe this is compromise with sin. I believe it was based upon his love and forgiveness. And that she became a believer. Jesus said "NEITHER DO I CONDEMN YOU."

You see, that is the beauty of the Gospel of Christ. The Bible teaches that once you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ that there is therefore now, no condemnation to those who are in Christ.

I am nevaer going to face judgement for my sins. And I am thankful. My sins have been paid for by the precious blood of Christ. I have assurance that I am going to be in heaven. And no matter what I have done, God has forgiven me in Jesus Christ. [REDACTED] Positional I am perfect. And that is truth. In my practice, I deminstrate what a mersable sinner I am. But postional I am saved. And nothing can cahnge that. There is no conde condemnation to those who are in Jesus Christ. PRAISE THE LORD.

out

Now, I don't know what the sins are in your life. It may not be adultery. It may bee a bad attitude or bitterness. But, listen, whatever your sins are in your life. Christ has forgiven you, already. It is finished. It is done. And how foolish not to come to him. He loves you...He loves you as..you..are...

You know, one of the most assuring, comforting, and warm things of the gospel is to know that Jesus loves you just as you are. Because very few other people do.....But Jesus does.

(40) Finally, and I don't want you to miss this. Notice, her responsibility now before God. Jesus said to her at the end of Vs 11 "from now on sin no more." Literally, "be sinning no more."

That is talking about a habit of life. That is why this is more than just one single act. This woman was known, therefore, for a pattern of adultery. And Jesus is saying stop that pattern of life. Don't do it anymore. And friends, our responsibility in being freed by Christ from our sin is to live in [REDACTED] freedom from the power of sin. To go and sin no more. [REDACTED] To stop this pattern of life. ~~to~~ ~~truly~~ truly believe what has happened in christ, that we have been delievered from both the pently of our sin, and the power of sin, itself. That sin does not have to rain over us. We don't have to be slaves to sin. Example: - Root BITTERNESS -

out

And believers are often being plaged by the same problems. Sexual immorality is found among the believers just as it is found among the unbelievers. Jesus said: GO AND SIN NO MORE.

The power for victor over any sin, no matter what it is, is in Jesus.

It is not in ourselves. When he forgave us he forgave us from everything the law could ever demand. And he has also delivered us from the power of sin's control over us. <sup>T</sup> Go <sup>g</sup> and sin no more.....

*So, what ever the sin is in your life*

LET US CLOSE IN PRAYER