

John 7:47-53 & 8:1-11

47-53a. Then the Pharisees answered them, "Are you also deceived? Have **any of the RULERS or the Pharisees** believed in Him? But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed." **Nicodemus (he who came to Jesus by night, being ONE of THEM)** said to them, "Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?" They answered and said to him, "Are you also from Galilee? **SEARCH and look**, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee."

- **John 3:1-2** "There was a man of the _____ named Nicodemus, a _____ of the Jews. This man came to _____ by _____ and said to Him, "Rabbi, we _____ that You are a _____ come from _____; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with Him."

Definition: " Nicodemus, a RULER of the Jews" - Nicodemus was a Pharisee, a member of the Sanhedrin, the Supreme Council of the Jews, which was a political as well as a religious body. This is in answer to the question, "Have **any of the rulers or the Pharisees** believed in Him?" Nicodemus was a SECRET believer at this point, but he is getting bold enough to defend Jesus a little. By the time of Jesus' death on the cross, we see him being bold enough to openly claim the body of Jesus and help prepare it for burial.

- **John 19:39-40** "And _____, who at _____ came to Jesus by _____, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds. Then they took the _____ of Jesus, and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to _____."
- **John 12:42-43** "Nevertheless even among the _____ many _____ in Him, but because of the _____ they did not confess Him [openly], lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God."

Definition: "Are you also from Galilee? SEARCH and look" - The question, "Are you also from Galilee?" was a sarcastic question. The other Pharisees were ridiculing Nicodemus for trying to defend Jesus. As for SEARCHING the Scriptures or LOOKING for the truth about Jesus, the Pharisees didn't want to be bothered. **They had made up their minds** about Jesus, and did NOT want to be "bothered" with the FACTS.

- **John 5:39-40** "You _____ the _____, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which _____ of Me. But you are _____ willing to _____ to Me that you may have life."
- **Isaiah 9:1-2** "But there will be no more gloom for her who was in anguish; in earlier times He treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphthali with contempt, but later on He shall make it glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of Jordan, _____ of the Gentiles. The people who walk in darkness will see a great _____; those who live in a dark land (Galilee), the _____ will shine on them."

53b-8:2. And everyone went to his own house. But **Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.** But early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them.

- **Matthew 14:23** "And when He had _____ the multitudes _____, He went up on a _____ by Himself to _____. And when evening had come, He was _____ there."

Definition: "Jesus went to the Mount of Olives" - Why did Jesus go to the Mount of Olives, or when in Galilee, to another mountain? Matt. 14:23 tells us it was **so He could BE ALONE to PRAY**. Remember, even though Jesus is the Son of God, and equal to God the Father, **He had GIVEN UP His privileges and powers as God** when He entered the world as a MAN (see Philippians 2:5-11). Therefore, **He was operating on the EARTH** as a human being (although without a sin nature) under the control of the Holy Spirit (see Acts 10:38). As a HUMAN BEING, **Jesus needed to spend time in PRAYER with the Father**, in order to keep up His strength (just as we do) - strength both physically and spiritually.

3-5. Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him **a woman CAUGHT in ADULTERY**. And when they had set her in the midst, they said to Him, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. Now **Moses, in the law, commanded** us that such should be **STONED**. But what do you say?'

- **Leviticus 20:10** "If there is a man who commits _____ with another man's wife, one who commits _____ with his friend's wife, the adulterer (male partner) and the adulteress (female partner) shall surely be _____ to _____."
- **Leviticus 18:20** "And you shall not have [sexual] intercourse with your neighbor's _____, to be _____ with her."
- **Exodus 20:14** "You shall _____ commit _____."

Definitions: "DEFILED" and "ADULTERY - "Defile" means to make unclean or impure; to DISHONOR; to corrupt, to make DIRTY. **"Adultery"** means **ANY sexual intercourse OTHER than between a MAN and WOMAN MARRIED to EACH OTHER**, and especially with someone else's wife or husband.

- **Read I Thessalonians 4:3-7** (Verse 3) "For this is the _____ of God, your sanctification: that you should _____ (stay away) from _____."
- **Hebrews 13:4** "_____ is honorable among all, and the [marriage] bed _____; but _____ and _____ God will judge."

Definition: "Moses COMMANDED that such should be STONED" - The method of EXECUTION for the death penalty in the Hebrew culture of the Old Testament was **death by stoning**. This was where the guilty person was taken out somewhere, and a group threw large rocks and stones at them until they were dead (see Deuteronomy 22:13-22).

- **Acts 7:57-59** "Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; and they cast him _____ of the _____ and _____ him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. And they _____ Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, 'Lord Jesus, _____ my _____.'"
- **Romans 1:29-32** "Being filled with all unrighteousness, _____ immorality, wickedness, _____, maliciousness; full of _____, murder, strife, _____, evil mindedness; they are whisperers (gossips), backbiters, haters of God, _____, _____, boasters, inventors of _____, _____ to parents, undiscerning, _____, _____, unforgiving, _____, who, knowing the righteous _____ of God, that those who _____ such things are _____ of _____, not only do the same, but also _____ of those who practice them."

6. 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."

- **Matthew 22:15 & 17-18** "Then the _____ went and plotted how they might entangle (trick) Him in His talk." (Verses 17-18) "Tell us, therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" But Jesus _____ their _____, and said, 'Why do you _____ Me, you hypocrites?'"

Definition: "TESTING Him" - The Pharisees were trying to trick Jesus. If He said that the woman should NOT be put to death, the Pharisees could then **ACCUSE Jesus of violating and teaching AGAINST the Law of Moses**. However, He ended up turning the whole incident AGAINST the Pharisees. Also, notice the HYPOCRISY of the Pharisees as they only bring the WOMAN to be stoned. If she was caught "in the act" (see verse 4), where is the MAN she was doing it with?

- **Deuteronomy 22:22** "If a _____ is found lying with a married _____, then _____ of them shall _____, the _____ who _____ with the woman, and the _____; thus you shall purge the evil from Israel."

Definition: "Jesus WROTE on the ground with His FINGER" - Since Jesus is God in the flesh, this would be **the SAME FINGER that wrote the Ten Commandments on the tablets of stone** - the same finger that wrote the very commandment, "You shall not commit adultery!" The Holy Spirit does not tell us what He wrote, but some have speculated that Jesus wrote a list of the sins of the men who brought the woman to Him, and even possibly the names of all the women they had committed adultery with, or prostitutes they had ever slept with, etc.

- **Exodus 31:18** "And when He had finished speaking with him upon Mount Sinai, He gave Moses the two _____ of the testimony (law, commandments), tablets of _____, written by the _____ of _____."
- **Exodus 32:15-16** "Then Moses turned and went down from the mountain with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand, tablets which were _____ on both sides; they were written on one side and the other. And the tablets were _____ work, and the _____ was _____ writing engraved on the tablets."

7. 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**.'

- **Read Deuteronomy 17:5-7** (Verse 7) "The hand of the witnesses shall be _____ against him to put him to _____, and afterward the hand of all the people. So you shall purge the evil from your midst."
- **Romans 2:22** "You who _____, 'Do not commit _____,' do _____ commit _____? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?" **James 2:10-11** "For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumbles in one point, he is _____ of _____. For He who said, 'Do _____ commit _____,' also said, 'Do not murder.' Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor (sinner) of the law."

Definition: "He who is WITHOUT SIN" - Jesus is saying that they may carry out the penalty of the law if there is one there who is not also guilty of sin. **Jesus Himself** is the only One who is WITHOUT SIN.

- **Hebrews 4:15** "For we do not have a High Priest (Jesus) who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet _____ sin."

8-9. And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. 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."

- **Romans 2:14-16** "For when Gentiles, who do not have the Law, by _____ do the _____ contained in the _____, these, although not having the Law, are a law to themselves; who show the work of the law _____ in their _____, their _____ also bearing witness, and between themselves their _____ accusing or else _____ them), in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel."

Definition: "Being CONVICTED by their CONSCIENCE" - What is our CONSCIENCE, and is it different than being convicted by the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit convicts Christians when we sin, but even **the unsaved have a CONSCIENCE**. This conscience is an inborn knowledge of right and wrong (Rom. 2:15 says "**written in their hearts**"), but most unsaved people have violated their conscience so many times that it has been "seared with a hot iron" as I Tim. 4:2 says, or in other words, "scar tissue" has built up on their conscience until they **no longer FEEL it convicting them**. The more often a person SINS, **the LESS they will FEEL** their conscience, until they become like those described in Ephesians 4:19 "Who **being past FEELING**, have given themselves over to licentiousness (no moral restraint), to work all uncleanness with greediness." These people have STOPPED listening to their conscience, and they have no remorse (feeling sorry) for doing wrong.

- **I Timothy 4:1-2** "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed (listening, paying attention) to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own _____ seared with a hot iron."
- **Romans 1:18-19 & 21** "For the _____ of God is revealed from heaven against all _____ and _____ of men, who suppress (hold back) the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be _____ of God is manifest in them (in their CONSCIENCE), for God has _____ it to them." (Verse 21) "Because, although they knew [about] God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile (empty) in their thoughts, and their foolish _____ were _____."

Definition: "Beginning with the OLDEST" - If Jesus was writing a list of their sins on the ground, or names of those women they had committed adultery with, the oldest would have accumulated more sins. Also, the oldest men might have been the first to realize how THEY were breaking God's law by what they were doing.

10-11. 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?** " She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "**Neither do I condemn you; go and SIN NO MORE.**"

- **John 3:17** "For God did _____ send His Son into the world to _____ the world, but that the world through Him might be _____."
- **Luke 19:10** "For the Son of Man has come to _____ and to _____ that which was _____."

Definition: "Neither do I CONDEMN you; go and SIN NO MORE" - When Jesus says He does NOT CONDEMN the woman, **it DOES NOT mean that what she did is okay!** Our society today wants everyone to be TOLERANT of everyone else's behavior - right or wrong. As Christians, we cannot be TOLERANT (say it's OKAY) of something God's word says is SIN! However, we can have an attitude of **COMPASSION for the SINNER**, and try to lead them to Christ, and help them get out of that SINFUL LIFESTYLE, as Jesus did with this woman. He told her to **"go and SIN NO MORE!"**