

As **BELIEVING, JUSTIFIED SINNER'S**, it is our privilege and responsibility to **KNOW, UNDERSTAND, and LIVE** according to every privilege purchased for us through Christ's accomplished work at Calvary as our Redeemer, Substitute, Surety, and Savior. The Apostle John declared - "*He that **HATH THE SON HATH LIFE**; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; **THAT YE MAY KNOW THAT YE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE**, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*"(I Jn.5:12,13) As justified saints we **must and do realize** we are in a spiritual warfare - "*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.*"(II Cor.10:3-5) Paul told the young preacher Timothy - "*This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare.*"(I Tim.1:18) Even though there is **ABSOLUTELY NO POSSIBILITY** that Satan can rob **ONE SINNER** whom Christ **JUSTIFIED** by His obedience unto death at Calvary of their salvation, the "*world, the flesh, and the devil*" continually seek to rob them of the joy, peace, and assurance of their present abiding position in Christ. While in this world, God's children face a myriad of enemies - some **INWARD ENEMIES (namely our remaining sinfulness and the accusations of our own conscience due to our remaining sin)**, as well as many **OUTWARD ENEMIES**. Whether inward or outward, they all seek the same goal - **to never allow us to enter into what is ours by virtue of our union with Christ our RIGHTEOUSNESS**. The Scriptures make it very clear **HOW** the justified sinner **MUST LIVE** - "*Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul. Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*"(Heb.10:38 - Heb.11:1) Our security, comfort, and assurance **DOES NOT REST** on our faith, or even our **PERSEVERANCE**, but exclusively on the One **WHO** made the promise - "*And this is the **promise** that **HE HATH PROMISED US**, [even] **ETERNAL LIFE**.*"(I John 2:25) Always remember Abraham's faith - "*He staggered not **PROMISE OF GOD** through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; **AND BEING FULLY PERSUADED** that, **WHAT HE HAD PROMISED, HE WAS ABLE ALSO TO PERFORM**.*"

In this story concerning this woman taken in the very act of adultery, we have a spiritual lesson set before us that is **absolutely essential** to the life of faith. In this story we see the answer to some of the **MOST IMPORTANT** questions of all - **How can law and grace be harmonized? How can God be "just and justify the ungodly"**? I don't have the time to go through all the different details of this attempt by these lost religious Jews to either entrap our Lord so they could accuse Him of being against the law of Moses, or else accuse Him before all men of not being what He was,

the "*friend of Publicans and sinners*". **I DO KNOW THIS**: They wanted our Lord either discredited, or better they wanted Him **DEAD** - "*I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.*" (**Jn.8:37**) This historical event and all that was recorded concerning it was no accident. Everything our Lord said and did **EXPOSED** these moral, sincere, dedicated religious sinners to be enemies of the true and living God and salvation by grace, and also revealed the grace and mercy of the true and living God to every object of His love.

The **FIRST THING** we gain from this story is that **THIS WOMAN** was guilty - **Vss.3,4**. We could get caught up in all the different theories about **HOW** these men caught this woman, **but that's not the issue**. How they caught her really doesn't matter! The only thing that matters is that they unwittingly brought this guilty sinner to the very person every **ELECT** sinner must be brought, **TO CHRIST**. There was never any doubt about the **GUILT** of this woman - "*she was taken in adultery, THE VERY ACT.*" If you read the rest of this story, this woman never seeks to defend or justify herself as not guilty before them, **or even before Christ**. What was true of this woman is true of every sinner, **INCLUDING** God's elect - "*Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.*" (**Rom.3:19**)

The **SECOND THING** we learn from this story is that the **LAW** in the hand of God **ALWAYS** accomplishes its appointed goal. These men had brought this woman before Christ and rightly stated what God's holy law demanded - "*They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned.*" Death was exactly what **the Law demanded** - "*And the man that committeth adultery with [another] man's wife, [even he] that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.*" (**Lev.20:10**); "*If a man be found lying with a woman married to an husband, then they shall both of them die, [both] the man that lay with the woman, and the woman: so shalt thou put away evil from Israel.*" (**Deut.22:22**) These men, though they thought and proclaimed themselves as guardians of the Law of Moses, they had no concern for God's law, only their own evil desires to entrap our Lord. Had they been concerned about the honor of God's law, instead of bringing the woman to the Lord, **they would have brought both the man and the woman to the High Priest**. Nonetheless, our Lord turned the light of the law on both these lost religious sinners and on the sinfulness of this adulterous woman - **Vss.6-8**. **Only One who IS TRULY GOD** could deal with such a seeming paradox. **They THOUGHT** they had the upper hand against Christ. But in response, Christ merely knelt and wrote on the ground. I know there is a lot of supposition about what Christ wrote, but I think the significance is not in **WHAT** He wrote, **BUT THAT WITH HIS FINGER HE WROTE ON THE GROUND**. Wasn't the Law written by the **finger of God on tables of stone from the earth**? So the same **FINGER** that wrote the law on the first tables of stone **wrote on the ground**. Christ had already declared that He did not come to destroy the law, but to fulfill it. I think His writing on the ground was a symbolic ratification of God's righteous law - "*For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot*

or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."(Matt.5:18) As a result of Christ's action, they continued to question Him, **demanding that He make a judgment**. Our Lord merely stood up and address them this way - "So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her." He then knelt again and wrote on the ground a second time - **Vs.8. Think about it:** The first "tables of stone" were destroyed when Moses in anger threw them on the ground. A **SECOND** set of tablets were then written by the **SAME** finger of God - "And the LORD said unto Moses, Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first: and I will write upon these tables the words that were in the first tables, which thou brakest."(Exo.34:1) **What became of that second table of stones?** They were placed inside the ark, **UNDER** the blood covered mercy seat – "And he took and put the testimony into the ark, and set the staves on the ark, and put the mercy seat above upon the ark."(Exo.40:20) When Christ spoke these words, these men were convicted in their hearts and left one by one - **Vs.9.** When Christ wrote on the ground the **first time**, these men continued to speak. But when **THIS PERSON WHO IS "IMMANUEL, GOD WITH US"** spoke, they were convicted in their consciences. I can't help but think again of the verse I quoted earlier from **Rom.3:19** - "Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may **become guilty before God**." The whole time this was going on, this woman was hearing and seeing all the same actions and words. Imagine her fear - **SHE WAS GUILTY**. She knew her guilt, and by Christ's own words **she too was brought in guilty before the law** - "He that is without sin among you, let him **cast the first stone at her**." This teaches us that the **ONLY ONE** capable of truly judging is the Lord Jesus Christ. These men, sinners themselves, were not worthy to judge in matters of God's Holy law. I hope you understand this - **THE LAW DEMANDED HER DEATH.**

That brings me to the **LAST THING** this story teaches us. It teaches us the grace and mercy of God in establishing the **ONLY WAY** by which God can be "**A JUST GOD AND A SAVIOR**". Our Lord didn't overlook this woman's adultery, nor did Christ pretend this woman was innocent of the charge God's law brought against her. In this passage we see both law and mercy. The Apostle John stated it this way - "For the law was given by Moses, [but] **grace and truth came by Jesus Christ**."(Jn.1:17) The law of Moses demanded death, and it is unrelenting. It must have satisfaction to every precept - "**The soul that sinneth, IT SHALL DIE**."(Ezek.18:20) Knowing the sentence pronounced by God's law on every sin, here is this woman, absolutely guilty and worthy of death. How did our Lord deal with her, and how does He deal with all those who are His? **Let's read what John wrote:** "**When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?**" All these self-righteous men had gone away, convicted in their own consciences and guilty - **BUT THEY WENT AWAY!** This woman could have easily ran away when her captures were all gone, couldn't she? What does this woman who is a sinner do - **SHE STAYED RIGHT WHERE CHRIST IS.** I love the question Christ asked her: "**Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?**" The One who wrote the LAW knew and understood the law. According

to the Law, for someone to be justly charged and the penalty executed, there had to be 2 or 3 witnesses, and those witnesses were to be the ones to execute the sentence – “**At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; [but] at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death. The hands of the witnesses shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people. So thou shalt put the evil away from among you.**”(Deut.17:6,7) **No witnesses, no accusers - NO CHARGE.** But notice how this woman responds to Christ's questions - “**She said, No man, LORD.**” **This is so significant!** Those Scribes and Pharisees addressed Christ as “**Master**” - “**They say unto him, MASTER (literally, teacher), this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.**” Yet this woman who is a notorious sinner, caught in the very act of adultery, she addresses Christ as “**LORD**”. Paul told us - “**Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the LORD, but by the Holy Ghost.**”(I Cor.12:3) Notice Christ's response to her answer to His questions - “**And Jesus said unto her, NEITHER DO I CONDEMN THEE: go, and sin no more.**” Think about what this meant to this notorious, guilty sinner, and think of what it means to all God's elect! **Here's a great question:** How could One who is God, who will by “**no means clear the guilty**”, declare to this guilty sinner - “**NEITHER DO I CONDEMN THEE**”? The answer is found in Paul's words in **Rom.8:31-34** - **ELABORATE, LISTEN UP:** If Christ didn't condemn her, **SHE WAS FOREVER FORGIVEN FROM ALL HER SIN**, because Jesus Christ is “**the same yesterday, today, and forever.**” Christ **WOULD NOT** and **COULD NOT** condemn her because as one of His sheep, He would in a short while “**bear our sins in His body on the tree, and by His stripes we are healed.**” Clearly we see in Christ's dealing with the sinner the truths of Substitution and Representation - **II Cor.5:21**. But Christ also shows us the fruit and effect of God's grace in the life of One that is His - “**Go, and sin no more**”. Christ didn't say, “Go, and sin no more”, and I won't condemn you.” **The order is quite clear:** “**Neither do I condemn thee. Go and sin no more.**” In other words, out of grace and gratitude for the great forgiveness of our sins, seek to honor God in every area of your life. The same Apostle that recorded Christ's words declared the same truth in **I Jn.4:19** - “**We LOVE Him, because He first LOVED US.**”

In closing let me say this: Knowing my own heart and my remaining sinfulness, and knowing how Satan accuses me, and my conscience accuses me, and even the world accuses me, what can be the foundation for our hope, security and assurance? **Here it is:** “**Where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?**” By God-given faith, even though our conscience, Satan, and this world seeks to accuse and condemn us, may we take God at His Word, believing and resting in what Christ did in our name and nature, and boldly declare like this woman - “**NO MAN LORD**”. And then in sweet assurance of that confidence in Him, by God-given faith hear our blessed Lord declare - “**NEITHER DO I CONDEMN THEE.**” This is the **ONLY WAY** a sinner can “**overcome**” in this world – Turn to **Rev.12:10,11** and we'll close!

