

# The Truth Will Set You Free

## Ճշմարտութիւնը Ձեզ Պիտի Ազատէ

### John 8:1-11;31-38

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. <sup>2</sup> At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. <sup>3</sup> The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group <sup>4</sup> and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. <sup>5</sup> In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" <sup>6</sup> They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. <sup>7</sup> When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." <sup>8</sup> Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

<sup>9</sup> At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. <sup>10</sup> Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" <sup>11</sup> "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin." (john 8:1-11 NIV 11)

### **Jesus demonstrates his grace toward a woman caught in adultery.**

Jesus was at the Temple teaching. He was in the courtyard of the Temple. The Scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery. How in the world did they catch her? Most likely this woman was well known! (There are details we don't know). These people were not exactly interested in condemning this woman; they were actually planning a trap to put Jesus in a tough situation. What do I mean?

**-According to the Law of Moses**, the woman and the man had to be put to death because they were caught in the act of adultery (Leviticus 20:10) (Deuteronomy 22:22). One can observe that they only brought the woman. That says something...

-Remember they were all under the Roman authorities. **According to the Romans**, only Romans were in charge of executions.

**They wanted to see how Jesus was going to respond.**

If he agreed to put this woman to death, he would be in trouble with the Romans. If he rescued this woman from execution, he would be considered against Moses and the Law.

A well-planned trap.

So, the trap is that Jesus should choose between Jewish law or Roman law.

This is a well-planned trap.

-Jesus listened to them then he bent down and wrote on the ground.

There are different theories what Jesus wrote on the ground.

It could be he was just writing some names of people. Or just writing some thoughts he had. We don't know what he wrote.

Dr. Kenneth Bailey's interpretation is what I want to bring forth. Bailey says Jesus wrote in Hebrew or Aramaic the word *Hamouth*, which means: **DEATH**.

t%ow™D;mhl

Basically, writing the verdict in Jewish law.

Jesus knew the Law of Moses and that was the verdict according to the Law.

Jesus is saying to the crowd:

"This is the verdict, and you want me to be in trouble with the Roman authorities, fine."

-The method of execution in the Law **was stoning**. So he said:

"Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." (John 8:7 NIV 11)

**"Gentlemen, who will be the one to join me to go to jail?"** Only the Romans could carry out executions.

You all know what happened next.

One by one the men left. Starting from the older men to the younger. I think it revealed the older you are, the more sins you have....

**What happened here?**

The woman was observing all this. She saw how Jesus condemned these people in their courtyard, in their Temple. She knew that this was not the end. Jesus was writing his death sentence from one event to the next....

Jesus' response (which I will put in my own words) is very important, "Where are the ones who condemned you? Where are those who rejected you?" "They are

gone,” answers the woman. **“I will not condemn you either. Yet, I also do not agree with your lifestyle. Go and do not sin.”**

**Warning**, this does not mean Jesus is agreeing with sinful life of the immoral life of that couple or the Jews who brought her for stoning.

No, **Jesus takes sin seriously**. His all ministry is to defeat sin, to defeat Satan, to defeat death. Jesus frees us from the bondage of sin.

Some took these verses out of context and in the age of relativism they enjoy using these verses; if Jesus did not judge this woman we should not judge as well.

This is the wrong conclusion. Please read the entire Bible, please read chapter 8.

Jesus said: **“I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins.”** (8:24)

Right after this event **Jesus spoke again to the people. He said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”** (John 8:12 NIV 11)

Please read the entire chapter, there is a **dispute over Jesus’ testimony.** (8:12-20)

Also, there is A **dispute over who Jesus is.** (8:21-29)

Unbelievable, how people remain in darkness and refuse to see the light.

### **-The Truth will make us Free**

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. <sup>32</sup> Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

<sup>33</sup> They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?”

<sup>34</sup> Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup> Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. <sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. <sup>37</sup> I know that you are Abraham’s descendants. Yet you are looking for a way to kill me, because you have no room for my word. <sup>38</sup> I am telling you what I have seen in the Father’s presence, and you are doing what you have heard from your father.” (John 8:31-38 NIV 11)

-You see we are under the curse of sin, which blinds us, which makes us selfish, which refuses to accept Jesus as the light who brings life.

There are reasons why this event (bringing the woman to the court) has been recorded here in the Gospel of John.

-I just explained how Jesus is demonstrating his costly love towards the woman and all of us.

-It is also how Jesus is telling us to live morally in a right relationship with God. "Go and sin no more."

Jesus can free us from bondage of sin.

His truth makes us free.

Carson writes saying<sup>1</sup>:

The reason for its (this story's) insertion here may have been to illustrate 7:24 and 8:15 (*do not judge from outside*) (Carson p334)

-Another reason is to demonstrate **who Jesus is**; Jesus is without sin vs we, humans, who are sinners.

Once more Jesus said to them, "I am going away, and you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I go, you cannot come." (8:21) I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins." (8:24)

Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me? (8:46)

I have seen this writing all over the world: **the truth makes you free.** Many people use this verse without referring to Jesus. Jesus is trying to explain to the Jews, the children of Abraham, that there is not favoritism. All of us are under the curse of sin, all of us need salvation and liberation from sin.

**If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. <sup>32</sup> Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.**" (John 8:31,32 NIV 11)

It is not automatic, if we hold to his teaching, if we abide in His Word, we will continue in knowing Jesus daily who is the Truth. Knowing, experiencing Jesus the Truth will liberate us.

That woman saw who Jesus was. She will go and sin no more by abiding in the truth of Jesus.

Strange : Jews denied that they are slaves.

**“We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?”** (John 8:33 NIV 11)

Seriously, Jews have not been slaves? Egypt, Assyrians, Babylonians, and read the book of Judges... and now how about Roman occupation?

Why people like to remain in darkness?

**Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.** (John 8:34 NIV 11)

### **Application:**

in chapter 7 Jesus is **the Water that can give us life.**

in chapter 8 Jesus is **the Light** of the world who gives life.

In end of chapter 8 he says to them: “before Abraham was born, **I am!**”

Jesus is the great I AM.

Let me remind you again the continuity of chapters 7 and 8. We are in the Feast of Tabernacles: which is: **God is dwelling with His People in the wilderness. It is a celebration... God is in the midst of us.**

Jesus is in the midst of them, and they cannot see it.

How are you doing today?

What is bothering you today?

What kind of “darkness” is keeping you in sin and away from God?

**Jesus is the Light of the world and whoever follows Him shall not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.**

Some of us live in the guilt and shame of sin. (the story of the woman)

We see Jesus absorbing our guilt, our shame. This is **leading Jesus towards the cross** which the ultimate expression of his costly love towards us.

**And the TRUTH will set you free....**

After these tough discussions with the Jews, Jesus ended his word with this statement:

**Very truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!”** <sup>59</sup> **At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.** (John 8:58,59 NIV 11)

He is the Great I AM. No wonder they crucified our Lord.

May His Word reflect in your daily walk.

Amen

