

“Neither Do I Condemn Thee”

John 8:1-11

I believe God wrote the Bible. This Book I hold in my hand is the Word of God. Every word is God’s Word. However, God did not physically pen down these words with His own hand. God used holy men like Moses, David, Solomon, the prophets, and apostles to pen down His Words on paper so we could read them. The biblical terminology for this process is called divine inspiration (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:20-21).

However, there are three places in the Bible where God actually wrote with His own hand.

1. The writing of **COMMANDMENTS** on the mountain (Ex. 20:1-17; 31:18). Sin is a transgression of these commandments (1 John 3:4). No one, except Jesus, has kept these commandments.
2. The writing of **CONDEMNATION** on the wall (Dan. 5). Because everyone has fallen short keeping the commandments, we are weighed and found lacking.
3. The writing of **CONVERSION** on the ground (John 8:1-11).

At the end of John 7 everyone had left the Temple and gone home, but Jesus went to spend the night on the Mount of Olives. Now, early in the next morning, Jesus returns to the Temple to teach. But in the middle of His teaching, He is interrupted (8:1-3).

I. The WOMAN who was guilty (vs. 3-5).

- A. **The TRANSGRESSION.** The woman is guilty of breaking the first handwriting of God—*“Thou shalt not commit adultery.”* The judgment against adultery according to God’s law was death.
- B. **The TRAP.** This situation was a setup to trap Jesus. These hypocrites were not interested in condemning the woman, but seeking an occasion to condemn Jesus! [Probably because of they way Jesus entangled them about the Law in John 7:21-24.]
 - ▶ If the Lord answered their question according to the judgment of stoning, they would say, Jesus had no compassion. If the

Lord extended mercy and let her go, they would say Jesus was against the Law.

- C. **The TYPE.** The woman is representative of us. We have all broken God's law and thereby stand guilty before God (Rom. 3:19, 20, 23; James 2:10). As this woman was condemned to death, so is everyone who has violated God's law (Rom. 6:23).

II. **The WRITING on the ground** (vs. 6-9).

A. **The wisdom of His RESPONSE.**

➤ The Lord stooped to the ground and wrote in the sand with His finger.

1. I don't believe He was doodling on the ground. He is God, and God doesn't scribble indiscriminately. When He does something, it is always with purpose. Whatever He wrote on the ground put the Pharisees under conviction.
2. Jesus was writing in response to the question, "*What sayest thou?*" They wanted to know Jesus' verdict about the Law. Therefore, I believe He may have wrote words from the Law. Deuteronomy 22:22—"*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.*" Since she was taken "*in the VERY ACT*" of adultery, her companion must also be taken. Where was her guilty partner?

B. **The fairness of His RULING** (v. 7).

➤ After they continue pressing Him for His verdict, He rises and turns the tables on them. Instead of putting the woman on trial, Jesus puts the Pharisees on trial!

➤ The words "*without sin*" do not mean "sinless," but without the sin in question (adultery). "Let him that is innocent of her sin first cast a stone at her."

1. Jesus stoops again and writes on the ground. Maybe He was writing down the names of the guilty men! Or, maybe He wrote Matthew 5:28.

2. Perhaps He writes this portion of the Law—Deuteronomy 17:6-7—*“At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death 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.”*
 - ➡ If this woman was to be stoned, the ones who witnessed her in the act of adultery must cast the first stone. And, the one who witnessed the act, must also know who her guilty companion was, so why wasn't he arrested also? In all likelihood, her sex partner was amongst the very ones who were accusing the woman (cf. 1 Sam. 2:22)! That would explain why they were convicted by their own conscience! It was a case of “the pot calling the kettle black.”
3. We don't know for sure what Jesus wrote, but whatever it was, it worked! As when God wrote on the wall of Belshazzar's palace and his knees *“smote one against another,”* they were all convicted of their sin.
4. The Pharisee's trap backfired. They were caught in the very trap they set for Jesus! *“He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.”* All they could do was drop their stones and slink away because they were all guilty.
 - ➡ I read of a pastor who kept a stone on his desk with the word “FIRST” painted on it. It served as a reminder for him not to judge hypocritically.

III. The WORDS of amazing grace (vs. 9-11).

A. The CONVICTION of sin (vs. 9-10).

1. v. 10—In keeping within the context of the law's demands, the witness of the act was to be the executioner of the penalty. When Jesus called for an innocent witness to execute the woman, no one stepped forward. Why? Because the executioner also needed to be executed!

➤ Without any witnesses, there could be no execution! Jesus was within the righteous demands of the law to pardon her.

2. Jesus said, *“God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is NOT condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the the name of the only begotten Son of God.”*

B. Her **CONVERSION** from sin (v. 11).

➤ This woman didn't need condemning—she needed converting. She didn't need stoning—she needed saving. Jesus came *“to seek and to save that which was lost.”*

1. She received a **NEW LORD**. The scribes and Pharisees called Jesus "Master" or "Rabbi." The woman called Him "**Lord**." By calling Jesus *“Lord,”* she was putting Him on the throne of her life (Rom. 10:9).
2. She received a **NEW LIFE**—*“Go, and sin no more...”* Jesus did not condone her sin—He conquered it!
 - Notice the order of Jesus' words. He did not say, *“Go and sin no more, and I will not condemn thee.”* That would have been works, not grace. We are not save by good works, but unto good works.

SUMMATION: All the accusers left the Temple with a guilty conscience. The woman went her way with a clean slate... a fresh start... and joy in her heart. How will you leave today? Do you need to be saved?