

The Adulteress of John 8, a fresh new look

Find a deeper message of hope, grace and confidence in this story

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All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

I often use Jesus' Hebrew name – Yeshua. Yeshua is Jesus.

Summary:

Find some inspiring new nuggets in this well-known story that you may have missed before. Do you still sometimes feel condemned, that you fall short of the grace and favor you've been extended? Do you want more peace and to understand your Savior more? Hear this message, and even if you are sure you know all there is to know about this story – you'll likely learn more. You will want to praise and sing to our Savior more than ever.

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[Note: I recommend using these notes simultaneously with hearing the audio if possible.]

Greetings again, brothers and sisters in the Messiah – and welcome to the House of God. Of course if you are in Yeshua (Jesus), you are a part of the spiritual house of God. Welcome especially to my brothers and sisters in the faith in Kenya, Australia, the USA and around the world—and especially also to those right here in Florida.

We're all pretty familiar with the story of John 8, I'm sure. You know, the story of the woman caught in adultery, in the very act. I've always wondered where the man was – and that is so unfair that he wasn't brought there as well. But the point of this teaching today is to look at this story with fresh eyes. I assure you – most of you will leave this teaching today with a greater appreciation for the brilliance and the awesome grace of our Master Yeshua the Messiah, Jesus the Christ, the Son of God.

So turn with me with John 8. Today we want to glorify our Savior. To him be the glory, as we grow in the grace and knowledge OF OUR LORD Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 3:18).

John 8:1-2

But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

2 Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them.

Remember this was right after the Feast of Tabernacles, of which we read in John 7. I think it is very conceivable that this happened on what we call "the 8th Day" – right after the 7 day Feast of Tabernacles. If so, this is the final holyday of God Almighty. Remember their booths came down on the 7th day, not the 8th – for they were all to live in booths for SEVEN days. So Jesus probably "camped out" and slept on the Mount of Olives that night. Then in the morning, he and his disciples went to the temple.

Teachers often sat down to teach. Notice he's in the temple complex. I've been there many times. Yeshua was not a Levite so he actually could not have been inside the temple itself.

This is referring to the Temple complex. Everywhere you go around what was the temple, for acres and acres, was beautiful and clean stone flooring or ground everywhere. The “ground” was stone. The pillars and walls – everything was marble and stone. Keep that in mind as we get into the story.

Yeshua (Jesus) is about to be set up by the Pharisees – the ancestors of modern Orthodox Jews.

John 8:3-5

Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst,

4 they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act.

5 Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do YOU say?"

The Pharisees interrupt his teaching with a woman caught in adultery. Where is the man? Maybe he was another Pharisee for all we know! But to be fair, the male should be there.

Leviticus 20:10

The man who commits adultery with another man's wife, he who commits adultery with his neighbor's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress, shall surely be put to death

Deuteronomy 22:22

"If a man is found lying with a woman married to a husband, then both of them shall die — the man that lay with the woman, and the woman; so you shall put away the evil from Israel"

By this standard, many people, perhaps many of us would have long ago been stoned. Especially if we apply Jesus' "lust = adultery" rule (Matthew 5:27-28). Even **King David and Bathsheba** – and many, many others. But it's sad, cruel and unjust that only the woman was brought. But that's so typical.

King Henry VIII, for example, couldn't abide any whispers of Anne Boleyn being unfaithful even though he himself had had many, many trysts up and down the land, even resulting in illegitimate children he had begotten. Come to think about it, the *children* weren't illegitimate – the ones committing adultery were. So King Henry self-righteously had his wife Anne Boleyn beheaded – though he seemed to get away with his own infidelities. But God is fair and just and even King Henry will stand before his Maker someday and have to give account.

So back to John 8 and the scene here with Jesus and the woman caught in the act. DO YOU SEE, HEAR AND FEEL THE TRAP being set?

- If Yeshua doesn't agree to have her stoned, he would be breaking Torah's rules that an adulterer or adulteress were to be stoned until dead.
- If he *does* agree to have her stoned, then he would be compromising his teachings about gracious forgiveness. He would be seen as a fraud and a hypocrite.

So do you see and feel the trap? Let's continue.

John 8:6

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.

Here's where the story starts to get *really* interesting. He's being tested – so they could accuse him of something. Now Jesus writes on the ground.

I used to think He used a stick or something – but that's not what it says. It says He wrote on the "ground" *with his finger!*

And later in the story they began to leave. WHY? What would make them leave?

Now – let me speculate a bit. I admit, I could be wrong, but hear me out. I'm not the first to think this. I used to think "the ground" had to mean a plot of dirt. Soil. Earth. But remember in verse 1-2 we are told he went to the TEMPLE. Folks, there's no "dirt" or "soil" on the temple precincts. There still isn't, in what is called the Temple Mount area even today. They kept that area very clean and for acres around the "ground" they stood on was all solid ROCK.

Are you catching my drift? How do you write on ROCK? That's what "the ground" was! And how do you do it with your finger? Of course this is about Yeshua who also walked on water and raised the dead!

The Greek word here for "ground" is Strong's word #1093, *ge* -- meaning ground, earth, or that on which we walk and stand. You can fall "to the ground" and that "ground" could be rock, or dirt, or anything. It can mean whatever we are standing on. But my point is, the word "ground" does not have to mean "soil". I checked the word "ground" out in *The Complete Word Study Dictionary of the New Testament*; 2nd definition. The 2nd definition includes the word in John 8:6-8 where we've been reading.

NT:1093

(II) As that on which we tread, the ground (Matthew 10:29; 15:35; Luke 6:49; 22:44; 24:5; **John 8:6,8**; Acts 9:4,8;

(from *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament* © 1992 by AMG International, Inc. Revised Edition, 1993)

Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament words simply says this word – *ge*- can often simply mean "THE ground". As in 2 sparrows falling to "the ground" (Matthew 10:29). That could have been a grassy area, or a field, or a stone temple area. Jesus told the crowds he was about to feed to sit "on the ground"—and that ground probably was not just dirt, but ground covered with grass. Mark 8:6. I've seen the likely spot. So writing on "the ground" just means he was writing on that on which we stand. And all around the temple was solid stone foundation. Solid rock.

My point is this: I think as the people started to realize he was writing on stone – with his *finger!* If it was stone, that in turn was making them realize they were dealing with Someone here far more amazing than they were willing to tangle with at that moment. Perhaps? We know it was the One who became Yeshua, Jesus – who wrote the original 10 commandments on STONE, WITH HIS FINGER, the "finger of God".

Could Yeshua have been writing down some of the 10 commandments on to the stone "ground" of the temple? He did it before, with Moses – why not do it again, and once more, on stone? I find this interesting. Yeshua is the lawgiver and they're trying to teach HIM about HIS law?

Jesus (I like the name His mama called Him – Yeshua – meaning salvation) wanted to show kindness and grace to this woman, especially as unfair as it was since the other offender – the man - wasn't there, but the law required justice. And it certainly isn't JUSTICE to only have her there, is it?

ANOTHER important point: Even if Yeshua had agreed to have her stoned, that STILL would not have fulfilled the law, which said BOTH offenders – the man AND woman- were to die. So it still would have ended up breaking the law. Many miss this.

But - It would have been a wrong teaching to deny what the Law said. She was guilty. She was worthy of death. Now what would Jesus do? So in verse 7, he upholds the Torah.

John 8:7

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."

But now notice what happens in the next verse.

John 8:8

And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground.

He was in the temple precinct – where everywhere there the “ground” is solid rock. It's solid rock! Whether he was up above on the Mall area, or down below where the merchants and money changers were – all of that, even to this day, was and still is solid ROCK.

Now stop and think. It says he WROTE on this ground, most likely made of solid rock, with his finger. Is it possible, that those watching him, were watching him write something on to stone with just his fingers?

THE FINGER OF GOD, WRITING ON STONE

The first time we are told of YHVH – this SAME BEING who became Yeshua – WRITING ON STONE -- was where, was when? Let's read it. Keep your finger or marker in John 8.

We're going to take a little detour first in to the book of Exodus to get some foundational groundwork set – then come back to John 8.

Exodus 31:18

"And when He (YHVH) had made an end of speaking with him (Moses) on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses two tablets of the Testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God."

So there was another time God wrote with his finger. It was the 10 commandments, written with the finger of God – on to stone. And in John 8, this same Being – now as Yeshua – is once more writing something with his finger. And I think – on to STONE.

Well, Moses came back with those 2 slates that he could hold in one hand. These were not the 400 lb. monoliths of granite that you see in depictions! No – two small tablets, written on both sides, that a man could carry in one hand. Maybe because KJV says “tables”, we get the idea these were huge, huge stone pieces. Remember they had to fit in a small ark too!

Exodus 32:15-16

“And Moses turned and went down from the mountain, and the two tablets of the Testimony were *in his hand*. The tablets were written on both sides; on the one side and on the other they were written. 16 Now the tablets were the work of God, and the writing was *the writing of God engraved on the tablets*.”

If you read the story in Exodus 32 on your own, this was the time of the Gold Calf incident and Moses in his fury cast the 2 tablets written by the finger of God on to the ground and broke all 10! MOSES – in his anger – also ends up breaking all 10 commandments.

Moses had to go back up and receive a new set, an *unbroken* 10.

Bear with me as all of this has a lot to do with what is happening in John 8. Now Ex 34:1.

Exodus 34:1

And Yehowah (the LORD) said to Moses, "Cut two tablets of stone like the first ones, and I will write on these tablets the words that were on the first tablets *which you broke*.”

Where did that 2nd set go? IN THE ARK – beneath, covered by, the golden MERCY seat. The solid gold lid of the ark was called the “Mercy Seat”. That copy was not broken, and was covered by MERCY. So now when YHWH looked at the law—which defined sin-- he saw it covered by mercy and the sprinkled blood on the mercy seat., covering the sins revealed by the 2 tablets of the 10 commandments. And when YHWH sees the blood, in this case blood on the covering Mercy Seat, what does he do? He *passes over* our sin.

Remember what Moses and the Israelites were told by God – in Egypt on the Passover?

Exodus 12:13

Now **the blood shall be a sign** for you on the houses where you are. **And when I see the blood, I will pass over you;** and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

One of the SIGNS of God’s true people – and I should have included this in my recent sermon on ***signs of God’s people – is that they are covered by the blood of the Lamb***. The Lamb is Christ, “the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29-30).

He doesn’t pass over our sins because of our goodness. He doesn’t pass over our sins because of our works. He doesn’t pass over our sins because we’re trying harder. What does it say was the reason He passes over our sins? **“When I see the blood”** of the innocent lamb smeared on your door posts and top of the door – that’s when I will pass over your home and not slay your first born.

We’re not told WHAT Jesus wrote with his fingers on the temple “ground” – probably in stone. Maybe he wrote the words “Mercy, grace, forgive...” Some feel he wrote down some of their names and their sins. Others are certain he wrote the 10 commandments. We’re not told. Whatever it was, once the others read it, and realized this man is writing on temple’s stone floor or ground -- they were convicted in their hearts and left.

JOHN 8:9

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.

THE BRILLIANCE and LOVE of Jesus

Remember, the Jewish religious leaders were striving to trip Jesus up. Was He going to abide by the Torah – and agree to stone the sinful woman – or show His way of grace? And how could he under the circumstances?

BUT THERE WAS ANOTHER LAW that Jesus was aiming for. How could Yeshua allow a woman caught in the very act of adultery – to get off the hook – and still claim he was *keeping* the Torah? Do you see the problem?

Here's the brilliance of Yeshua in this scenario. He sees the woman is torn up and would like another chance. No doubt she would like to be forgiven. No one wants to die such a humiliating death. But she'd been caught in the act of a having sex with someone else's husband!

Well there was another law in the Torah. Let's read it.

Deuteronomy 17:6-7

Whoever is deserving of death shall be put to death **on the testimony of two or three witnesses; he shall not be put to death on the testimony of one witness.**
7 The hands of the witnesses shall be the first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people. So you shall put away the evil from among you. [the first ones to cast stones were saying they hadn't done the same thing!]

Deuteronomy 19:15

"One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; *by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established.*"

Hebrews 10:28

"Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses."

You could not put someone to death unless – unless what? Unless there were at least two or three witnesses who would corroborate the accusation. It was against God's law to execute anyone unless there were two or three witnesses willing to speak up at the trial.

So what happens next?

John 8:9-10

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.

10 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?"

So v. 10—Yeshua is checking to see if the required number of accusers or witnesses are present. They're not! So now it would be illegal to stone her without 2-3 witnesses. So whatever Yeshua wrote on the ground -- and watching him write on the ground -- caused

everyone to leave. All the “witnesses” were gone! Jesus has asked her “Where are those accusers of yours? Has NO one condemned you?”

John 8:11

She said, "No one, Lord."

And Jesus said to her, **"Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."**

THERE IS SO much more going on here.

Yeshua asks, where are the witnesses against you, to condemn you? There HAD to be 2-3 remember for the woman to be stoned. NONE remained. Therefore she could NOT be legally stoned. In fact, the only one without sin – Yeshua – was the only one without a stone in his hand. The ONLY one who COULD have stoned her if there had been 2-3 witnesses by the standard Yeshua put down – “Let him who is without sin cast the first stone” – was the one who said, **“Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”**

BUT WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF SHE HAD SINNED AGAIN?

I want to quickly address something else. **What if that woman had been caught again a few days later, and brought to Yeshua again?** Would Yeshua have said to stone her? What do you think?

First understand that though we know today that the penalty of sin, all sin, is death (Romans 6:33), in the Old Covenant, not all infractions or sins were punished by death. A thief had to restore what he had stolen four-fold, for example. Someone who had coveted or lied, or stolen or even those who mildly dishonored parents - - were not executed.

But adulterers and murderers – and probably sabbath breakers and those who worshiped other gods – could all be executed.

So I ask again: adultery was a capital sin with the death penalty. Can we break God’s law and still expect forgiveness, if it happens more than once?

Now let’s get more personal. Have YOU not ever had to repent of the same sins more than just one time? Of course you have! And what did you expect God to do? What did you hope God would do?

Luke 17:3-4

Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. 4 And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him."

This same Teacher who said “Go and sin no more” also taught us to be forgiving of one another – even if we have to forgive someone SEVEN TIMES in one day!

But I hear preachers saying over and over – and I may have preached this too - - that if there’s no CHANGE, if we keep doing the same thing, we really haven’t repented. But Jesus teaches us that the decision if a person has repented or not is really in God’s hands ultimately. I’m very familiar with the scriptures that tell us to “bring forth fruits worthy of repentance” (Matthew 3:7-8), as John the Baptist said to the Pharisees. There are many

more. I know about those. I preach those too. But even with that, Yeshua is trying to teach his disciples –and you and me – to not be so quick to refuse forgiveness! Even if the person keeps doing the same thing over and over. After all, we hope HE will forgive us, though we fail in the same areas, over and over too.

Now Peter may have heard the teaching about 7x in a day – and so he comes up with his self-righteous standard:

Matthew 18:21-22

Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"

22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

But here, we're taught that even SEVEN times is not enough. Yeshua is basically saying – "QUIT COUNTING", just offer the forgiveness you've also received! Just keep forgiving! And quit having the attitude of condemning others. Be willing to forgive."

Now let's kick it up a notch.

We've got the SEQUENCE BACKWARD

Back to the woman caught in adultery and what Yeshua said. Notice the wording Yeshua spoke:

John 8:10-11

10 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?"

11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "**Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.**"

Don't think this woman's sin was simply glossed over. It was not. Her sin was HARSHLY condemned AND PUNISHED by execution

-- just, not by HER, but by HIM. Yeshua took the condemnation. HE took the consequence of her sin – the death penalty. He took condemnation on Himself. He took the curses of breaking God's law (death and other curses) on himself. He took the SEVERE punishment of her sin on himself. HE was the One judged, condemned, and crucified for her sin and for mine and for yours.

Therefore she didn't need to be judged or condemned.

Romans 5:18-19

Therefore, as through one man's offense [Adam's offense] judgment came to all men, **resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life.** 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

Let's go back once more to what Jesus says – "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."

Frankly over the years I've heard a lot more preaching and emphasis placed on "go and sin no more" than on the FIRST thing he says in that sentence – "Neither do I condemn you."

The preaching I've usually heard goes like this: "If we don't sin, we won't be condemned". That's the sequence: don't sin – don't get condemned.

That's what we've always heard, right? And there indeed are statements in scripture to back that up. I just think that what Jesus does, and what Jesus SAYS in this encounter, is very instructive.

He does not put the phrase about not sinning anymore first. No – the FIRST thing he says – is "neither do I condemn you". Before we know we can live joyfully, obediently, confidently – we have to FIRST get rid of the condemnation.

Putting it another way: BECAUSE he does not condemn us, we are empowered to go sin no more. That's the sequence.

Here's another example:

In Romans 7, Paul focuses on himself and his human nature. ***But what happens when we focus on ourselves?***

- Self-condemnation. Enormous guilt.
- Realization of failure to measure up. Knowing we've – once again – failed.
- Paul says repeatedly "That which I hate, I do". That's what happens when we focus on ourselves. You can read that all through Romans 7.

What's wrong here? When we focus on our own work and our own performance, we will end up depressed!

We should be focusing on our Savior. On the One who takes away our condemnation. To HIM be all the glory – so why focus on what WE are doing? We shouldn't be. We should emphasize what GOD is doing in us – not what WE'RE doing. I am not my own savior. Yeshua is! I have only one Savior, only one Creator who is creating the NEW creation. I am not the creator of my own "new creation" – the "new me". If so, I've botched it up, and so have you.

When we focus on OUR work, we will be depressed – or we'll feel boastful if we think we accomplished anything spiritual. Yeshua says "Of your own selves you can do nothing" (**John 15:4-5**). Nothing! But if we abide in HIM, we bear much fruit, and now can do ANYTHING, or "all things" as Paul says (**Philippians 4:13**).

When we focus on God's work in our lives – we are freed from condemnation. We praise and sing to him.

So by the end of Romans 7, Paul pleads "WHO SHALL DELIVER me from the body of this death" – and Paul gives the answer: "through Jesus Christ my Lord!" **Romans 7:24-25**.

Then Romans 8 begins with "there is therefore NOW, NO CONDEMNATION to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."

And for the remainder of Romans 8, Paul's focus is on what Yeshua is doing for and in us – and how we have no condemnation – and now we can live a righteous life In Christ. And indeed we WILL, if we really understand it! In fact, we'll feel *indebted* to live as a slave of righteousness (Romans 8:12-14).

Our Christ paid the penalty, took away the curse of the death penalty for us, and we died to ourselves (**Gal. 2:20; Col 3:3-4**), and our life is now the risen Christ in us that Father sees. So therefore, there is no more condemnation.

Now – does the condemnation return when we sin in stumbles of our Christian walk?

NO! “There is therefore NO CONDEMNATION for those who are in Christ.”—Romans 8:1.

Once I'm in Christ, I'm a child of God. I may stumble, but I am always His child. And so are you. And he will NEVER leave you nor forsake you (**Hebrews 13:5**). He will come back for you – as the good shepherd looks for the lost sheep and JOYFULLY brings it back to his home (**Luke 15:1-7**).

We get it backward. WE say, “Go and sin no more and then we (or God) won't condemn you”.

But that's not what Yeshua said. Nor is it the sequence He put his statement in.

In the New Covenant, Salvation (Yeshua – Jesus) says FIRST: “Neither do I condemn you”. THEN, after the condemnation is absent, removed – THEN he says “Now go and sin no more”.

But we all DO sin again.

Even Abraham lied about Sarah being his sister TWICE – hiding that she was, more importantly, his WIFE! The stories are in Genesis 12 and Genesis 20. Even Abraham, the Father of the faithful, had to learn real faith. He was very human, very normal. But in the end, He believed God and it was credited to him for righteousness.

So -- don't you still once in a while lose your patience, or your temper, or have a lustful thought, or covet something you can't really afford or should have? Or break the sabbath? Or put other things ahead of God or ahead of the pursuit of God? Come now, brethren.

In the Old covenant the order is “obey first, then I will bless you”. In the new covenant, it is “**believe first**, and I will remove the condemnation– THEN you can more likely and more easily obey God.”

Yeshua came to do three things about our sinful lives.

1. Turn to Romans 10. **Yeshua came to forgive and pay for the penalty of our sins.** We have to believe in our hearts our Master Jesus and confess with our mouths that He is risen, and we shall be saved. Belief in Him comes FIRST. BELIEF drives us to repentance and accepting and confessing our Master.

Romans 10:9-13

“that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."

12 For there is NO distinction between Jew and Greek, [or Chinese, Russian, Australian, Kenyan or any other nationality or ethnic group] for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

2. **By paying the penalty for our sins and incurring the full wrath of God on himself, for us, while on the Cross, Yeshua removes all condemnation against us. He doesn't just COVER up our sin – but REMOVES it, TAKES AWAY our sins.** In the Old Covenant, sins could only temporarily be covered by the sacrifice of the innocent sheep and goats and bulls. That's why it is called Yom Kippur – the Day of covering, or plural Coverings- Kippurim.

But the blood of bulls and goats could not TAKE AWAY sins once and for all. That's what **Hebrews 10:1-4** says. But when Yeshua came, John the baptizer said, "Behold the Lamb of GOD who *takes away* the sin of the world" (**John 1:29**). And not just for Jews – but for the whole world. Taking away the sin also takes away the condemnation of the sin.

THIS condemnation from her peers is what the adulterous woman, caught in the act, was experiencing. Whatever Yeshua did, whatever he wrote with his finger in the stone "ground" of the TEMPLE – drove away the accusers. Remember Satan is the accuser of the brethren and "Devil" means "slanderer". So when we gossip and slander and speak evil of one another, especially of fellow brethren, that is so contrary to what our Father wants among his children.

Satan wants us focused on ourselves, on what we're doing, on how much we're trying to do right and be right, knowing that we'll end up feeling beaten and depressed when we do, just like Paul in Romans 7. Yeshua wants us focused on Father and on HIM – who now lives in us and for us. His death forgave the death penalty and removed the condemnation; but we are saved by his LIFE, his resurrection life in us (Romans 5:12).

So Yeshua is our Advocate, our Defender, as it says in 1 John 2:1-2. He's up there saying, "No, no... there is no accusation possible. I paid it all. I removed the condemnation! I'm their covering now. They're 'in me' – and I'm their life now."

We need to do a study on what it means to be "in HIM". [Rom 5:8-11; 1 John 4:17 not in audio]

Romans 5:8-11

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 10 For if when we were enemies we were

reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His LIFE. 11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

If we really, really understand this, we will be experiencing the JOY of His salvation and not be so terrified of what God is doing. IN fact, we should have BOLDNESS now, in the judgment, by being in Christ Jesus.

1 John 4:17

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.

So in John 8, remember Yeshua is saying all this – Neither do I condemn you -- to a woman who only minutes before was in bed being intimate with someone else's husband! Just minutes before. Would you and I even dare dream we could say such a thing to such a woman so close to the event? So Jesus paid her sin debt, took the penalty and took the condemnation off of her.

But now we're no longer "in debt" spiritually – but still "penniless" spiritually. So point 3 – Jesus does more. I'll give much more information on this in future sermons.

3. Jesus becomes OUR righteousness by faith; He gifts us with HIS righteousness. Romans 5, especially Rom 5:17 and Philippians 3:9-11 are very clear about this. Also 2 Cor. 5:20-21, And Phil 1:11 and so many more.

If you want to learn more about this point 3, see or hear my sermon in December 2012 about the Righteousness of God by Faith.

So let me repeat: in the New Covenant – when we stand before Yeshua in repentance and confess His sacrifice and believe in Him – HE says – not just to the adulteress – but to you, what's your name, put your name in here – ***"Neither do I condemn you."*** The no-condemnation comes first.

Why is it that human nature somehow wants to feel like we have to ensure our own salvation? So many – it seems – almost like to feel bad for how much and how often they mess up! We'll never experience the full joy of HIS salvation if we don't understand it correctly. When we understand there is no more condemnation and HE is our life, *this in turn gives us the joy and love and confidence now to let THE RISEN Christ live in us by His spirit – by which we can now obey.*

But it's hard to "sin no more" unless you FIRST know that what you've *already* done has been erased. It's hard to feel and believe in God's love when you feel condemned, either from God or from those professing to be His children.

That's what the adulteress was experiencing. The people of God – the Jews at that time – were condemning her, when they themselves were also all sinners!

But the Holy One, the Son of God who had no sin, was there saying "No, and neither do I condemn you". What a contrast. All her horrible sin was erased. The condemnation was removed, even though that horrible sin was being committed just minutes previous to this. THE PENALTY of her sin and incurring God's severe WRATH for the sin – was put on Christ, who was beaten to within an inch of his life – and then nailed on a tree or cross for us. HE became sin for us, 2 Cor 5 says – that WE could have our sin debt paid. MUCH, MUCH more on that is coming in a few weeks.

The Other Woman

There's another story, another woman of ill repute, who anointed Christ's feet with expensive perfumed oil as she washed his feet with her tears. The Pharisees once again condemned her. But Jesus didn't! Let's pick up the story in Luke 7. By now Yeshua is discerning the Pharisee was judging him for allowing this to happen by such a horrible sinful woman. So Yeshua tells this story. *Some feel this could have been the same woman of John 8 – who later comes to Yeshua here in this story in Luke 7.* I don't know... just telling you what others may think.

Luke 7:41-50

41 "There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42 And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?"

43 Simon [the Pharisee] answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more."

And He said to him, "You have rightly judged." 44 Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head. 45 You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. 46 You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. **47 Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little.**"

48 Then He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

49 And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

50 Then He said to the woman, **"Your FAITH has saved you. Go in peace."**

Because of her FAITH in the saving grace of Yeshua, she could receive being "forgiven much", and as a consequence loved him much. *When we deeply understand what God has done and is doing in us and for us—we gotta love a Father like that.* We've just gotta!

When we comprehend even a tiny fraction of what our Savior has done and continues to do in us and for us -- wow, we have to just raise up our hands in praise and let out a heart-felt "thank you" of deep appreciation and affection for Him. We just have to!

So now we can LOVE much. LOVE fulfills the Law (Romans 13:10). God's law is about love. We can love better when we understand and feel how much we have been loved. We love- because **HE first** loved us (1 John 4:19).

Another point: We all SHOULD love him with an incredible amount of love – for we ALL have been forgiven of a huge, huge pile of sins, if we would have eyes to see the truth of that. But no, we'd rather look down on sinners we deem more horrible than us. Let's stop that. We've all been horrible sinners who ALL have been forgiven of a LOT of sin. ALL OF US. *It's just that SOME of us don't get it.* We don't realize we ALL have a lot to be forgiven of – and therefore we ALL should love Yeshua and our heavenly Father a lot.

And we all would stop condemning one another so much – when we realize how much WE'VE been forgiven. We like to come and praise the HEAD of the body – Jesus – all while we are punching, boxing, hitting his BODY (the members)! Oh NO, my brothers and sisters. That has to stop. The Christ takes it personally how we treat one another, for we are members of HIS body – and members therefore of one another.

Romans 12:5

“so we, being many, are one body *in Christ*, and individually members of one another”:

Those who are forgiven much, love much. So do you love your Master? Do you *tell* Him that? Do you praise him often and thank him for HIS love?

So John 8 is full of the gospel story of the saving grace of Christ who by his wondrous deeds and love for us opens the door to the wonderful Kingdom of God.

So in John 8:

- Yeshua could have condemned her, but didn't.
- Yeshua **wrote with his finger in the stony ground** they stood on. Whatever he wrote and how he wrote it with his finger caused the witnesses to leave. You had to **have 2-3 witnesses of a sin** before someone could be stoned. They all left--, and so without 2-3 witnesses, now Yeshua could *legally and lawfully release her* from the stoning penalty.
- Yeshua takes on Himself her penalty of execution – though she didn't realize it at that time. Yeshua experienced the full brunt of the wrath of God over sins. Though God is a merciful God, He is also a just God. Penalties had to be paid. Yeshua paid them all for all of us.
- This allows Yeshua now to be able to say “Neither do I condemn you” BEFORE He says “Go and sin no more”. It's the JOY of feeling uncondemned and knowing your sin debt is completely paid that **ALLOWS** us to go forward, to live a holy, obedient LIFE with the risen Christ in our lives by His spirit.

I hope with this teaching you have grown in your appreciation for our Master, Yeshua the Messiah, Jesus our Christ. We are all commanded to GROW in the grace and knowledge

of our LORD AND SAVIOR Jesus Christ..." (2 Pet 3:18). I hope that's happened today for you.

Hallelu YAH! Hallelu YAH! Let's all praise YAH! What a LOVING Father we have. He could have spared His perfect Son – or He could have spared all of us by not sparing His own son. HE chose to spare all of us. Praise you Yeshua, praise you. Praise you Father, our dear Abba, praise you!

Let me ask a blessing on you:

May Yehowah, our dear Father, our ABBA in heaven, bless you. May His face beam with joy as looks on you – forgiven, cleansed, washed, and uncondemned -- in Christ. May you feel you can come boldly, in Christ, to the throne of GRACE – unmerited favor – anytime you so choose. May you praise Him and may your joyful praises rise as a sweet savor before His throne. May you exalt Yeshua your Savior – and as you do, may He grant you to sit with him on His throne in His kingdom. May our beloved Father watch over you. May He protect you, guard you and your family and your home. May he bless your health, bless your business, bless everything involving you when we put HIM first.

May you be filled with the gifts of God's spirit as He pleases. May you display the *fruit* of God's spirit working in you to Father's glory. And may Father bring you peace, HIS peace, HIS faith, HIS joy, HIS love in name of Yeshua our dear Savior... amen.

Until next time, this is Philip, your brother in our Messiah asking for blessings, peace and shalom to all of you as you walk in *His* light, built upon His rock. Until next time.... Shalom and joy!

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