

1 Jesus went unto the mount of Olives. 2 And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them. 3 And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, 4 They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. 5 Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? 6 ¶ This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not. 7 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. 8 And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. 9 ¶ And they which heard *it*, being convicted by *their own* conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, *even* unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. 10 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? 11 She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

The setting is; Jesus is teaching in the temple. Did you notice? "***and all the people came unto him;***" This is further stirring of the hatred of the Scribes and Pharisees, because where Jesus was, they were not the center of attention. They were plotting to find a way to accuse him, which would enable them to have reason to discredit him and to put him to death. "***This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him.***" We also know; they knew what the law said to do; but rather than do the law commandment, they bring her to Jesus and pose this question. Where is the man? Notice the rudeness of these Scribes and Pharisees. From the text it seems; they interrupted his teaching, to put themselves in the spotlight, and lay the groundwork of their snare, in front of "***all people.***"

What does Jesus do in response to this hostile intrusion into his work of teaching God's truths? The first thing Jesus did was ignore them, seen in verse ***Joh 8:6 "But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not."*** They keep pushing, knowing the intent of their hearts, and their disbelief of Jesus being the Christ; Jesus gives them, not an answer to their question, seen in: ***Joh 8:7 "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."*** Again, he stoops down and writes "***on the ground.***" We see; Jesus gives a command to take action, according to the law commandment of stoning her to death, with the modifier of self-examination before they act.

I have heard several interpretations of what Jesus was writing on the ground, which may or may not be correct. However, we are given a prophetic scripture that gives clarity to what Jesus was writing, I believe, found in: ***Jer 17:12-13; 12 ¶ "A glorious high throne from the beginning is the place of our sanctuary. 13 O LORD, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, and they that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living waters."*** Did you notice? "***and they that depart from me shall be written in the earth***" I believe; Jesus was writing the names of these accusers, who did not believe he was the Christ, on the ground. When Jesus gave the qualifier: first examine yourself for sin, and if you are sinless, you cast the first stone to carry out the law commandment. I believe; Jesus wrote the names, of these accusers, "***on the ground,***" and as they saw their names written, they were convicted in their hearts of their hypocrisy.

Realizing Jesus knew their hypocrisy, and the battle being lost, they leave. "**and they that depart from me**" This would fulfill this Old Testament prophesy, in this incident.

The prophesy being fulfilled, and the hypocrites being exposed and departed, Jesus and the accused woman are left alone, in the midst of "**all people**." Jesus questions the woman about her accusers, and then he does something unheard of under the law; he forgives this woman, and he sends her away with a command to "**Neither do I condemn thee: go and sin no more.**" This adulterous woman goes out of the temple saved from a natural death by stoning. I believe she was saved eternally, why? She left the presence of Jesus without condemnation, and that's a good indication she was saved eternally, as we see in: **Ro 8:1 ¶ There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.**" This action of Jesus demonstrates; the age of grace has come to fruition. It tells us; Jesus knows those who are not his people, and he knows those who are his people, and Jesus forgives his people of their sins.

A life lesson for us today: There is a principle here that we should not miss. Notice, they continue to press him for an answer. We are sometimes accosted, in our Christian lives, by those who do not believe in God and Christ. They are not seeking truth; but rather, they are pushing a point, which they believe justifies their unbelief in Jesus Christ. They want to argue, and we should understand arguing does not settle anything. An argument is an exchange of words, by two or more people, with anger, which is the opposite of what the scripture teaches us in: **Pr 15:1 "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger."** This is what Jesus exemplified in his actions on this occasion. Christians are not to argue, but rather, reason together in the truth of God. God, making his word effectual, will bring his people, lovingly, together in the knowledge of the truth, and bring peace.

Wherefore, we should consider the motive behind questions that are posed to us. If we know they are from those who only seek argument, we should ignore them, and if they press the point; we should be ready to give an answer, with lovingkindness, not anger, as seen in: **1Pe 3:15-16; 15 "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: 16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ."** The word of God, used effectively in Holy Spirit power, will bring the accusers shame and they will go away, as they went out from Jesus. Praise God! for the example which Jesus set for us to follow. We do not want to be like these who questioned Jesus. These did not believe in Jesus. If you don't believe in Jesus, you are lost forever as seen in: **Mr 16:16 "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."**

In closing, I point out; we do not want our names written "**on the ground**." Why? If the ground is soft enough to write on, then it can easily be erased. Even if your name is written on the membership role of a church, over time, the records with your name will be lost, or destroyed, and no one will ever know it was recorded. Even if they are preserved some way; when the world is all on fire those records will perish with the rest of the world.

There is one place we want to see our names written, which is in heaven in the Lamb's Book of Life. You see, these are eternal recordings and can never be erased, as we see in: **Re 20:15 "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."** Thank you, Lord Jesus! That you didn't write our names "**on the ground**" but in your eternal book. Hallelujah! Amen!