

(1) They went each to his own house, but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning He came again to the temple. All the people came to Him, and He sat down and taught them.

(3) The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and, placing her in the midst they said to Him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say? This they said to test Him, that they might have some charge to bring against Him.

(6b) Jesus bent down and wrote with His finger on the ground. And as they continued to ask Him, He stood up and said to them, “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.” And once more He bent down and wrote on the ground.

(9) But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before Him. Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.”

Think on these things:

1) If this woman was caught ‘in the act’ of adultery, what’s the first problem we can identify with the religious leaders crashing Jesus’ teaching session at the temple to drag her in front of all to see? After stating the problem, please also comment on the topical scriptures below.

Problem? **Caught in the act? Where's the man they caught, too...?**

Exodus 20:14 **The 7th of God's 10 Commandments given to Moses ('you shall not commit')**

Leviticus 20:10 **Both adultery parties (man/woman) are to be put to death, if caught**

Proverbs 6:20-35 **Prostitutes reduce ‘johns’ to a financial transaction, but the adulteress, wayward women hunt down the lives of men they sleep with. He who commits adultery with them ‘lacks sense’ and destroys himself (v.32). His disgrace will not be wiped away....**

Matthew 5:27-28 **Looking at a woman lustfully (sexually) makes one guilty of adultery.**

Matthew 19:3-9 **'Consummated' marriages of husband and wife make them one flesh (unity/united) in God's sight. "What God has joined together, let not man separate."**

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 **Unforgiven (serial?) adulterers will not inherit the Kingdom of God**

2) In the Law of God given through Moses, what is the penalty for people committing adultery (v.5)? What insight does this give you into God’s view of the sanctity (sacredness) of marriage?

Penalty? **They (both parties) are to be put to death by stoning.**

Sacredness of Marriage (1 Corinthians 7:1-5)? **Husbands and wives are to be married to avoid the temptation to sexual immorality. Each must willingly give of themselves sexually to protect their union, abstaining only temporarily for prayer focus. God feels so strongly about this that He commanded that adulterers should be put to death if they violate this union covenant.**

3) Do you think the Law's penalty of that day would work in America today (see Hebrews 13:4)?

No. If known adulterers were put to death, people would revolt. As long as it's consensual....

4) Summarize the Christian teaching on marriage from these passages: Genesis 2:23-24, Matthew 19:1-6, Ephesians 5:25-31, and Hebrews 13:4.

Men leave their parents/homes to marry their wives. Marriage is only between one man and one woman! (Gen/Matt) Men are to love their wives sacrificially, and share God's Word with them so they may become clean, holy and pure. Men are to exclusively cling to their wives. (Eph) Marriage is God-ordained and to be honored. Sex between spouses is accepted. (Heb)

5) Can you explain simply the difference between these sexually immoral behaviors?

Adultery? **Sex between a man and a woman, at least one of them married to someone else.**

Fornication? **Sex between unmarried men and women (agreeable partners?).**

Prostitution? **Sex for money (mostly) between a woman and a man ('john'), married or no**

Homosexuality (Romans 1:24-32)? **Sex between a man and a man, or a woman and a woman. Sex with a same-sex partner --- an act of defiance towards God.**

Pornography? **Watching sexual acts and/or looking at naked people -- in person, in magazines /cell phones/tablets/TV/videos or via the internet -- for sexual arousal and feeding one's lusts**

6) Skimming 1 Corinthians 5:9-11; 6:9-11, 18; Ephesians 5:3-8; and 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8, what can you summarize about God's view of sexually immoral behavior among believers?

1 Cor. – Do not associate with a 'brother' guilty of sexual immorality, not even to share a meal. Accept 'brothers' who come out of (escape) this lifestyle and walk holy lives. Believers are to flee from immoral behaviors. Eph – Sexual immorality must not even be hinted at among the brothers. Do not partner up with immoral people. 1 Thess. – It is God's Will that believers abstain from sexual immorality, controlling our own bodies in holiness and honor. Don't wrong our brothers in this way....

7) The woman was obviously guilty --- and Jesus gave the leaders and crowd permission to stone her (v.7) --- so why did no one throw stones to kill her? Which people "first" recognized that they could not do this (v.9)? Why do you think this was?

Why no stones thrown? **No one dared claim they were sinless....**

Who left first, and why? **The elders, probably because life experiences taught them everyone sins. Their example caused others (the younger) to rethink their judgmentalism, too. (Judging others is a serious problem for religious people....)**

8) God's forgiveness is a wonderful thing!! This is why Jesus came (John 3:17). Note, however, that Jesus also wasn't "winking" at her sin. Carefully read v.11 and write down the principal Jesus set forth regarding receiving God's forgiveness. Paul confirms this standard in Romans 6:1-2, 11-14.

Principal? **Go! And sin (in this way) no more! Believers are to sin as much as dead people do.... (they don't!!)**

People and situations I want to pray for this week: