

John's story of the woman caught in the act of adultery is a story that many pastors and teachers tend to avoid, because it appears Jesus is being light on adultery, and sin altogether. After all, Paul tells Timothy to rebuke sin publicly to serve as a warning and deterrent to the whole Christian Assembly.

But Jesus was not saying these men had no right to exercise judgement on this woman because they had previously sinned in their lives. What He meant was they themselves were violating the very command they claimed to uphold. Moses' exact words they made reference to were these:

If a man is caught lying with the wife of another man, both of them shall die, the man who lay with the woman as well as the woman. So you shall purge the evil from Israel.

(Deuteronomy 22:22-23)

It is clear here that these leaders cared nothing for justice or upholding God's Law but were using the woman as a weapon to get Jesus into trouble with the Roman authorities. This is a recurring theme throughout His whole ministry. First it was about paying taxes to Caesar, now it was about authorizing the death penalty, which only the Romans had power to decide!

And there is something else that stands out in this incident. Instead of answering them verbally, Jesus bent down and wrote on the ground with His finger. The finger of God had written twice already in recorded history.

First when He gave Moses the two stone tablets of the covenant and again at Belshazzar's Feast. If that wasn't what Jesus was saying, it was certainly what the religious leaders felt He was saying, because they began to go away one at a time, beginning with the elders.