

Gospel Reflections:  
JOHN 8

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JOHN 8:1-11

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 safest Thou?

6 This they said, tempting Him that they might have to accuse Him. But JESUSs 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 thane 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.

Here we have a sinner woman, presumably a woman caught in the act of adultery, hauled before JESUS. The religious leaders sought to discredit Him before the people and give themselves cause to bring Him into their custody. But they had to be crafty, for many of their people were coming to see what they refused to see, that This was The Messiah Himself before Whom they all stood!

So they thought, "Let us force JESUS to give us an answer here. If he says this woman is not to be punished – put to death as The Law of Moses says – then we may accuse Him openly of spitting upon the Law of GOD, which He accuses us of doing. But if He says this woman is to be punished – put to death as The Law of Moses says – then we may chastise Him publicly for being devoid of mercy and love, those very things which He accuses us of lacking! So let us have at Him!"

Yes Moses declares The Law of GOD in LEVITICUS 20:10, "And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death." So where was the man with whom this sinner woman transgressed? Was he safely hidden away by the Pharisees themselves? Was he perhaps one of their number? Was he himself perhaps one of the accusers standing there amongst the Pharisees and scribes of The Law?

What did JESUS write on the ground while these vain men stood there, calling Him to give an answer in this case? Perhaps He wrote the name of the man involved in this case. Perhaps He wrote the names of all the Pharisees and scribes of The Law of GOD who were themselves guilty of the same sin, even the very names of the accusers

themselves before Him. Perhaps He wrote the sins of the accusers who themselves stood there, bringing their offenses into the same light of day which they had brought this sinner woman into.

We may well hear JESUS speak to these men in His silence, “He that is without sin, let him cast the first stone to carry out the sentence of death under The Law of Moses upon this poor woman! What, are none of you without sin? You sit in the seat of Moses as shepherds over the flock of GOD, and are your hands not clean? You seek the blood of this woman for her sins, but desire mercy for the same sins – and worse – over your own lives!”

Sin offends GOD. It separates us from Him. It brings us needless earthly suffering and eternal death. It makes us its slave. It dulls our consciences. It does harm to the community of The Faithful. It harms the unity of The Church. While venial sin tarnishes The Grace of GOD working in us, mortal sin ruptures our relationship with GOD completely, resulting “... in the loss of charity and the privation of sanctifying Grace, that is, of the state of Grace. If it is not redeemed by repentance and GOD’s forgiveness, it causes exclusion from CHRIST’s Kingdom and the eternal death of hell...” [Catechism of The Catholic Church, # 1861]

Were these scribes and Pharisees of The Law of GOD themselves drenched in their souls with mortal sins, which they ignored, while pointing the finger only at this sinner woman’s mortal sins? It seems likely so. But JESUS takes their own fingers, and with His own finger writing in the dust of the earth from which He Himself made them all, He points their own fingers of accusation back upon themselves! Their own souls were covered with grave offenses against GOD, done in full knowledge, with the deliberate consent of their wills. Yet here they stand calling CHRIST to condemn this woman to death, while at the same time sparing them!

For Moses also writes in The Law of GOD in DEUTERONOMY 4:30-31, “When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou turn to The LORD thy GOD, and shalt be obedient unto His voice; (For The LORD thy GOD is a merciful God;) He will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget The Covenant of thy fathers which He sware unto them.” The Mercy of GOD is also always before us, calling us back to Him. He also extends His longsuffering forgiveness, by His Grace, to all men who confess and repent of their sins!

This is the hope which The Cross of CHRIST offers to all men, as Saint Paul declares in ROMANS 5:1-2&15, “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with GOD through our Lord JESUS CHRIST: By Whom also we have access by faith into This Grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of The Glory of GOD. ...For if through the offence [of Adam] ...many be dead, much more The Grace of GOD, and the gift by Grace, which is by One Man, JESUS CHRIST, hath abounded unto many!” Praise be to GOD for His loving Grace that saves us from sin’s guilt and death, redeeming us back to Himself at The Cross of CHRIST!

JOHN 8:12-30

<sup>12</sup> Then spake JESUS again unto them, saying, I am The Light of the world: he that followed Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

<sup>13</sup> The Pharisees therefore said unto Him, Thou barest record of Thyself; Thy record is not true.

<sup>14</sup> JESUS answered and said unto them, Though I bear record of Myself, yet My record is true: for I know whence I came, and whither I go; but ye cannot tell whence I come, and whither I go.

<sup>15</sup> Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man.

<sup>16</sup> And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not alone, but I and The Father that sent Me.

<sup>17</sup> It is also written in your Law, that the testimony of two men is true.

<sup>18</sup> I am one that bears witness of Me, and The Father that sent Me bearish witness of Me.

<sup>19</sup> Then said they unto Him, Where is Thy Father? JESUS answered, ye neither know Me, nor My Father: if ye had known Me, ye should have known My Father also.

<sup>20</sup> These Words spake JESUS in the treasury, as He taught in The Temple: and no man laid hands on Him; for His hour was not yet come.

<sup>21</sup> Then said JESUS again unto them, I go My way, and ye shall seek Me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come.

<sup>22</sup> Then said the Jews, Will He kill himself? Because he saith, Whither I go, ye cannot come.

<sup>23</sup> And He said unto them, ye are from beneath; I am from Above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world.

<sup>24</sup> I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am He, ye shall die in your sins.

<sup>25</sup> Then said they unto Him, who art thou? And JESUS saith unto them, even The Same that I said unto you from the beginning.

<sup>26</sup> I have many things to say and to judge of you: but He that sent Me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I have heard of Him.

<sup>27</sup> They understood not that he spake to them of The Father.

<sup>28</sup> Then said JESUS unto them, When ye have lifted up The Son of Man, then shall ye know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father hath taught Me, I speak these things.

<sup>29</sup> And He that sent Me is with Me: The Father hath not left Me alone; for I do always those things that please Him.

<sup>30</sup> As He spake These Words, many believed on Him.

Here are two things: First, that JESUS CHRIST in His earthly ministry always strove to submit His will to the will of GOD The Father. They were so close, that He was there as GOD Incarnate among men, and yet He also retained His own free will. He was tempted to sin, to take for Himself the honours of men and the world and make Himself the earthly King of Israel, but He sinned not. But this reminds us that GOD understands our human condition completely, for He not only created and sustains us from moment to moment, but He also came among us as one of us.

PSALM 78:35-41 recalls the lack of faith of the ancient Israelites, a condition common to all men down through the ages, even in our own lives at times as Christians, “And they remembered that GOD was their Rock, and The High GOD their Redeemer. Nevertheless they did flatter Him with their mouth, and they lied unto Him with their tongues. For their heart was not right with Him, neither were they stedfast in His Covenant. But He, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not: yea, many a time turned He his anger away, and did not stir up all His wrath. For He remembered that they were but flesh; a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again. How oft did they provoke Him in the wilderness, and grieve Him in the desert! Yea, they turned back and tempted GOD, and limited The Holy One of Israel!”

Second, JESUS tells His detractors that they would recognize that He is The Messiah when He is lifted up. Here He refers to His coming crucifixion on our behalf, that He would fulfill the prophesy of ISAIAH 53:3-5 as The Suffering Servant of Israel and all mankind, and – like the scapegoat – would take up the sins of the world to become our sin-sacrifice payment, “He is despised and rejected of men; A Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of GOD, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.” Yet The Father has made The Son for us, as verse 10 declares, “an offering for sin” for us!

In NUMBERS 21:6-9 Moses records the remedy prescribed by GOD for the results of sin among the ancient Israelites in the wilderness, when they grumbled in their hearts and with their mouths against The Providence of The Most High, “And The LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died. Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against The LORD, and against thee; pray unto The LORD, that He take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people. And The LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.”

Here JESUS reveals that He will become as the fiery serpent raised up on a pole, that when the people look upon Him and behold their sins before The Almighty, they will live if they in faith sorrowfully confess and repent of their sins! Only then, as The Lord says here, will men understand why He comes to be The Suffering Servant to be lifted up on a cursed tree before all mankind, to rescue us from the bite of the devil the serpent and his venom of sin and death, that we might live again both now and forever under The precious Blood of CHRIST, sprinkled with The Blood of The Whole Burnt Offering of GOD sent to buy us back to Himself!

JOHN 8:31-42

<sup>31</sup> Then said JESUS to those Jews which believed on Him, If ye continue in My Word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

<sup>32</sup> And ye shall know The Truth, and The Truth shall make you free.

<sup>33</sup> They answered Him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

<sup>34</sup> JESUS answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

<sup>35</sup> And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but The Son abideth ever.

<sup>36</sup> If The Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

<sup>37</sup> I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill Me, because My Word hath no place in you.

<sup>38</sup> I speak that which I have seen with My Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.

<sup>39</sup> They answered and said unto Him, Abraham is our father. JESUS saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.

<sup>40</sup> But now ye seek to kill Me, A Man that hath told you The Truth, which I have heard of GOD: this did not Abraham.

<sup>41</sup> Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to Him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even GOD.

<sup>42</sup> JESUS said unto them, If GOD were your Father, ye would love Me: for I proceeded forth and came from GOD; neither came I of Myself, but He sent Me.

If we are truly the disciples of CHRIST, we will both hear and gladly obey His Word. We will seek to live in His Light and not in darkness. No force on earth or in Heaven need oblige us to obey The Word of GOD. For if we are in The Master, we will live for the joy of doing His will. So, no, you can not be an open apostate and still be a Christian. You can not knowingly drench your soul in mortal sin, calling evil good and good evil in direct and open contradiction to GOD's Word, and be also at the same time in CHRIST! Though we still sin as Christians, and none of us are yet perfected, there is no such thing as for instance a "Christian abortion doctor" or a "Christian homosexual." These are oxymorons of claims of righteousness, while in truth such men are still in bondage to their father the devil.

Which brings up another point here. Anyone who denies JESUS CHRIST as Lord and Saviour in word and deed in their lives is a bond-servant of their true father the devil. You can not be a son or daughter of The Most High and spit in the face of The One Who came to redeem by offering Himself up for us on The Cross! So JESUS confronts these religious men of His Day, who kept an outward religiosity in their lives, but inside the cup of their souls they were corrupted and dead with mortal sins. Like Lucifer himself, when he dared to presume to ascend to the very throne of The Almighty, so also these lost religious leaders standing before JESUS dared to presume to declare their own righteousness before The Anointed One. They therefore, by denying The One sent to bring them into The Kingdom of GOD, also denied The One Who sent The Son; that is, they then also denied GOD The Father!

JOHN 8:43-59

<sup>43</sup> Why do ye not understand My speech? even because ye cannot hear My Word.

<sup>44</sup> Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in The Truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

<sup>45</sup> And because I tell you The Truth, ye believe Me not.

<sup>46</sup> Which of you convinceth Me of sin? And if I say The Truth, why do ye not believe Me?

<sup>47</sup> He that is of GOD heareth GOD's Words: ye therefore hear Them not, because ye are not of GOD.

<sup>48</sup> Then answered the Jews, and said unto Him, Say we not well that Thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?

<sup>49</sup> JESUS answered, I have not a devil; but I honour My Father, and ye do dishonour Me.

<sup>50</sup> And I seek not Mine own Glory: there is One that seeketh and judgeth.

<sup>51</sup> Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep My Saying, he shall never see death.

<sup>52</sup> Then said the Jews unto Him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep My Saying, he shall never taste of death.

<sup>53</sup> Art Thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: Whom makest Thou Thyself?

<sup>54</sup> JESUS answered, If I honour Myself, My honour is nothing: it is My Father that honoureth Me; of Whom ye say, that He is your GOD:

<sup>55</sup> Yet ye have not known Him; but I know Him: and if I should say, I know Him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but I know Him, and keep His Saying.

<sup>56</sup> Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My Day: and he saw it, and was glad.

<sup>57</sup> Then said the Jews unto Him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast Thou seen Abraham?

<sup>58</sup> JESUS said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I AM.

<sup>59</sup> Then took they up stones to cast at Him: but JESUS hid Himself, and went out of The Temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

Let us note first that, if we are blinded by sin and the captives of it – bound in chains of our own making and choice to the devil – then we can not understand or act upon The Word of GOD when we encounter it, in whatever form. We require GOD's Preceding Grace to understand The Truth of His Word, not only with our minds, but also with our hearts and in our souls. When Saint Paul testified of his conversion – by the active Grace of CHRIST – before King Agrippa in ACTS 26:16-18, he spoke of the opening of the spiritual eyes of men by GOD's Grace.

So CHRIST spoke to Paul, "But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to Light, and from the power of Satan unto GOD, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in Me."

Second that The Words of JESUS are The Words of GOD because He is GOD Incarnate. CHRIST is sent by GOD The Father; He and The Father are one. Thus, when JESUS speaks, He as The Living Word of GOD is speaking The Truth of GOD. So if we dishonour JESUS CHRIST, we dishonour His Father in Heaven. If we with knowledge of Who JESUS CHRIST is, choose to do this by our will, then we are not under GOD's Grace but rather His curse. We are in fact in total darkness, bound by our mortal sins to the devil! As the Priest Eli told the young Samuel in I SAMUEL 3:9, if we truly seek His face as His servants, we shall respond earnestly when we hear His Word, "Speak, LORD; for Thy servant heareth...!"

Third, once again we find JESUS declaring that, in His Sonship under The Father, He is in fact The Eternal One come down from Heaven, for He declares, "Before Abraham was, I AM!" This is The personal revelatory Name, JEHOVAH, that The Almighty revealed of Himself at the burning bush to His servant Moses in EXODUS 3:14-15, "And GOD said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and He said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. And GOD said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD GOD of your fathers, The GOD of Abraham, The GOD of Isaac, and The GOD of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is My Name for ever, and this is My memorial unto all generations!"

Now we can better see how devastating for a man's life and soul it is to reject JESUS CHRIST as Lord and Saviour, after it has been revealed to him Who He is! This also is why it is so terrible for us as Christians to come before The Presence of The Lord in The Holy Eucharist, to receive His Holy Communion unworthily, knowingly having mortal sins over our souls of which we have not confessed and repented of! Saint Paul warns us of this trampling of The precious Body and Blood of CHRIST, as it were, under foot, in I CORINTHIANS 11:27-29, "Wherefore whosoever shall eat This Bread, and drink This Cup of The Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of The Body and Blood of The Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of That Bread, and drink of That Cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning The Lord's Body!"