

a sermon:

GO AND SIN NO MORE!

Robert Baral
3/14/2006 AD

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. AN OPENING PRAYER

II. A PROPOSITION

III. A BIBLE PASSAGE - JOHN 8:1-11

IV. A SINNER WOMAN CAUGHT IN ADULTERY

V. JUDGE NOT, THAT WE BE NOT JUDGED

VI. THE TEARS OF ANOTHER PENITENT SINNER WOMAN

VII. WATCHMEN ON THE WALLS TO CALL OTHERS TO REPENT

VIII. IN CONCLUSION

IX. REFERENCES

I. AN OPENING PRAYER

“Almighty GOD, unto Whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from Whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your HOLY SPIRIT, that we may perfectly love You, and worthily magnify Your Holy Name, through [JESUS] CHRIST, our Lord.” AMEN! ¹

II. A PROPOSITION

O dear GOD, let us not fail to repent of our sins at The Cross of CHRIST, that our sins may be forgiven. And may we then always hear His Words also convicting us, “Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more!” ²

III. A BIBLE PASSAGE - 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 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. ³

¹ 1, Volz, “The Genius of Chrysostom’s Preaching,” Christianity Today, Issue 44, Volume XIII, Number 4, page 24. A prayer of St. Chrysostom.

² 2, KJV, JOHN 8:11b.

³ 2, KJV, JOHN 8:1-11.

IV. A SINNER WOMAN CAUGHT IN ADULTERY

There was once a woman discovered in the very act of adultery with a man. The unloving and self righteous men who wished to use her sin for their own dark purposes knew where and when to find her. Although the Old Testament punishment for both the man and woman found together in adultery is death, these cold men - religious leaders of their people - took only the woman to publicly accuse her. These twisted men of authority brought this suffering woman before The Lord, testing Him so as to have a case against Him. These religious leaders had no concern for the life or soul of this woman. Nor did they care if justice was done or not. Neither did they desire to honor GOD.

But their evil intent and sinful deeds in this matter were clear to The CHRIST, before Whom they had accused her. He knew the purpose of their actions. He stooped down and wrote in the dirt as they challenged Him to carry out The Law's death sentence against her. What did The Messiah write on the ground? Perhaps the Old Testament law that both man and woman caught in adultery are to be put to death. Perhaps the Old Testament law that condemns false accusers in such a case to be put to death. Perhaps the sins of the accusers themselves!

Perhaps our Lord wrote the words interpreted by the prophet Daniel to the wicked Babylonian King Belshazzar – those frightful words that the very finger of GOD inscribed in the wall before the horrified eyes of that proud and irreverent heathen king, “MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN!”⁴ Recall The Words of DANIEL 5:26-28, “This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; GOD hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to ... [others by the will of GOD]!”⁵

The Son of GOD at last replied to the woman's accusers, “Whosoever among you is without sin, let him throw the first stone to take this woman's life!” Slowly from eldest to youngest, these malignant leaders of the people of GOD put down their stones

⁴ 2, KJV, DANIEL 5:25.

and walked away. Why did they leave one by one? Stoning to death a sinner safely within a group of executioners - nobody knows who threw the stone that killed. But CHRIST challenged the one without sin among them to cast the first stone. Throwing the stones individually, he who threw the mortal blow would be known. Innocent blood might be upon his hands in the event of injustice!

Thus, when The Lamb of GOD Who takes away the sins of the world was left alone with the woman, He asked, “Woman, where are those who accuse you of sin?” The woman answered, “There are none, Lord!” The Holy One of Israel incarnate then pronounced forgiveness upon this woman and commanded her, “Then neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more!”

So the Deliverer-Redeemer of mankind took the evil works and intents of sin-laden men and brought about forgiveness and good! Is it likely that this woman would ever again repeat such a sin as adultery? I think not! And so this woman’s life and soul were saved by The Lord JESUS CHRIST, Who alone judges the souls of men. Indeed, our Lord JESUS CHRIST calls us to repent of our sins and turn from iniquity, that we may be forgiven. For then He commands us, “Go and sin no more!”

V. JUDGE NOT, THAT WE BE NOT JUDGED

The scribes and Pharisees took their case to CHRIST, perhaps citing LEVITICUS 20:10, which commands, “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.”⁶ Or perhaps they might have cited DEUTERONOMY 22:22, which commands, “If a man be found lying with a woman married to an husband, then they shall both of them die, both the man that lay with the woman, and the woman: so shalt thou put away evil from Israel.”⁷ But note they only brought the woman to The Lord for judgment. Where was the man involved?

⁵ 2, KJV, DANIEL 5:26-28.

⁶ 2, KJV, LEVITICUS 20:10.

⁷ 2, KJV, DEUTERONOMY 22:22.

The scribes and Pharisees, in the deceitful plotting in their hearts, thought they would have opportunity to denounce CHRIST no matter what He said. If JESUS said they must forgive the woman of her sin, or if He urged a lesser punishment than death, these serpent leaders would have accused Him of not upholding The Law of Moses. Worse, they would accuse Him of being “an enemy to the law of Moses, ...[claiming] that He came to destroy the law and the prophets.” Further, they would represent JESUS to the people “as a friend to sinners, and... a favourer of sin,” a corrupt man who coddles and even approves of sin!⁸

If He advocated and authorized the death penalty for this woman, the Pharisees would accuse JESUS of being unloving and without mercy as The Messiah ought to be. Further, no doubt these twisted men would “accuse Him to the Roman governor, for countenancing the Jews in the exercise of a judicial power” to pronounce a death sentence, which only the Romans could do.⁹

But our Lord turns the accusation of the accusers back upon themselves. “The scribes and Pharisees were the witnesses against this woman. Now CHRIST puts it to them whether, according to their own law, they would dare to be the executioners. [Dare] ...they take away that life with their hands which they were now taking away with their tongues?” How outrageous that sinful men should be so “zealous in punishing the offences of others, while they are... [just as] guilty themselves.” For in condemning others for their sins, we who commit the same sins also condemn ourselves!¹⁰

NUMBERS 5 tells of a test to verify if a wife had committed adultery or was undefiled, to be done by a Temple Priest. Dust from the Temple floor would be mixed with water and the accused woman would then drink this “bitter water.” If she was guilty of adultery, then as NUMBERS 5:22 says, “And this water... shall go into thy bowels, to make thy belly to swell, and thy thigh to rot...” If the wife was innocent, then the “bitter

⁸ 3, Matthew Henry Commentary, JOHN 8, v.6, [2].

⁹ 3, Matthew Henry Commentary, JOHN 8, v.6, [1].

¹⁰ 3, Matthew Henry Commentary, JOHN 8, v. 7, [2].

waters“ would have no physical effect upon her. ¹¹

Now it was commonly held by the Jews at this time “that if the husband who brought his wife to that trial had himself been at any time guilty of adultery, ...the [test of] bitter water [in NUMBERS 5 would have] ...no effect upon the wife.” So CHRIST confronts the woman’s self righteous accusers: “according to your own tradition will I judge you; if you are without sin, stand to the charge, and let the adulteress be executed; but if not, though she be guilty, while you that present her are equally so, according to your own rule she shall be free.” ¹²

Thus the woman’s accusers left quietly from the oldest to youngest, for the oldest had the greatest sin, and none of them were without sin. So the scribes and Pharisees fled when CHRIST at last answered them, “You who are without sin, let him cast the first stone of death upon this woman!” CHRIST alone is without sin, and He alone could have condemned this woman, for He alone has the power to condemn or forgive the sinful souls of men. But instead The Lord asks, “Woman, where are your accusers? Is there no man that condemns you?” The woman humbly replies, “None, Lord.” CHRIST declares, “Then neither do I condemn you. Go, and sin no more!”

VI. THE TEARS OF ANOTHER PENITENT SINNER WOMAN

In LUKE 7 we have a similar case with another woman who The Text suggests was guilty of some form of fornication and came before our Lord with tears of repentance for her sins. This other scene took place at a meal in the home of Simon, at which also were a number of Pharisees were present. This other woman “...stood at His feet behind Him weeping, and began to wash His feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed His feet, and anointed them with... ointment.” ¹³ The Pharisees, seeing this, said of CHRIST, “...This Man, if He were a prophet, would have known who

¹¹ 2, KJV, NUMBERS 5:22.

¹² 3, Matthew Henry Commentary, JOHN 8, v.7, [2], (c).

¹³ 2, KJV, LUKE 7:38.

and what manner of woman this is that toucheth Him: for she is a sinner.”¹⁴

Our Lord did not rebuke the woman, but rather gave her comfort and accepted her tears of repentance. He instead rebuked the knowledgeable religious men sitting at table with Him, who themselves had stood about rebuking this penitent woman in their hearts and between themselves. But JESUS explained that he who has sinned greatly and is forgiven by GOD is the one that is most thankful. So CHRIST says to Simon in LUKE 7:41-43: “There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most? Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And... [The Lord] said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged!”¹⁵

And what was CHRIST’s response to this penitent sinner? So CHRIST explains further to Simon in LUKE 7:44- 46, “...Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for My feet: but she hath washed My feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. Thou gavest Me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss My feet. My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed My feet with ointment.”¹⁶

Driving home the obvious point which had escaped the haughty and self-righteous men about the table with him, The Saviour proclaims to them, “Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.”¹⁷ Turning then to this woman, CHRIST pronounces over her soul in LUKE 7:48-50? “...Thy sins are forgiven... Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace!”¹⁸ This is the same message that CHRIST speaks to all truly penitent sinners before Him: “Thy sins are forgiven thee. Go and sin no more!” But at the same

¹⁴ 2, KJV, LUKE 7:39.

¹⁵ 2, KJV, LUKE 7:41-43.

¹⁶ 2, KJV, LUKE 7:44- 46.

¹⁷ 2, KJV, LUKE 7:47.

¹⁸ 2, KJV, LUKE 7:48-50.

time CHRIST warns us, “He who is without sin, let him cast the first stone!”

VII. WATCHMEN ON THE WALLS TO CALL OTHERS TO REPENT

What is the common tie between both of these penitent sinner women? Recall The Words which The Almighty spoke to the prophet in EZEKIEL 3:17, which apply as much to us today in The Church as they did to those of ancient Israel: “Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from Me!”¹⁹ Yes, warn the sinner of his peril in The Love and Truth of CHRIST. For this is not judging the souls of others, but being as The LORD calls all His saints, to be a watchman on the wall over the hearts, souls and minds of our neighbours!

We hear much today in our heathenized age, “Don’t judge my lifestyle! Don’t tell me to repent, as you are a sinner, too! Don’t call what I right evil according to your narrow-minded and outdated Biblical views; they may be fine for you, but they don’t bind me!” But like the prophet Ezekiel, we are called by GOD to love others enough to warn them of the terrible consequences of their sins, that they might repent; that they might be saved from needless suffering; that they might be preserved from eternal damnation! This is not “judging the souls of others,” but loving GOD and one’s neighbour as CHRIST commands!

Yes - only The Creator judges the souls of men on every man’s day of judgment, and we are not to dare to usurp The Almighty’s prerogative in such matters, for only He knows for sure whose name is written in His Book of Live and which is not. But we are to call our fellow men to join us in confession, repentance and new life at The Cross of our Lord JESUS CHRIST! To not do so when we see our fellow man set on a path of self destruction and in rebellion against GOD’s Word is rather the one who is truly being “judgmental,” for then we are calling what GOD calls evil as good and what He calls evil as good! For then we are closing our eyes to the present and eternal sufferings of our

¹⁹ KJV, EZEKIEL 3:17.

neighbours. For then we are denying GOD's call that we be our brother's keeper as watchmen on the walls!

VIII. IN CONCLUSION

My friends, do we denounce the sin of sodomy in other men, yet we ourselves are caught in adultery and fornication? Do we condemn other men for worshipping false gods and even the devil, yet we ourselves bow down to the materialistic idols of this world? Do we shake our heads at the blindness of the cold heart of the atheist, yet we ourselves are blinded by wrath and strife? Do we warn the heretic and the pagan that they shall not inherit the Kingdom of GOD unless they humble themselves before The LORD, yet we ourselves walk with a haughty spirit and boast of our Christian works before CHRIST?

JAMES 5:19-20 says, "Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins."²⁰ But let us do so with care, lest while calling the sinner to turn from his sin, we also fall into error and iniquity!

When we come before our Lord JESUS CHRIST on our day of judgement, will we be found guilty of condemning others for the same sins that we ourselves commit? Will we, like the scribes and Pharisees that condemned the woman caught in adultery, be asked, "You who were with sin, why did you cast stones at your brethren for those same sins?" Will we be given crowns of glory in the next world, or be condemned as hypocrites as were those scribes and Pharisees that accused the woman caught in adultery?

²⁰ 2, KJV, JAMES 5:19-20.

Let us never forget the charge of our Lord, “Let him who is without sin cast the first stone!” But O dear GOD, let us not fail to repent of our sins at The Cross of CHRIST, that our sins may be forgiven. And may we then always hear His Words also convicting us, “Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more!”²¹ In The Name of GOD The Father, and The Son and The Holy Ghost. AMEN.

²¹ 2, KJV, JOHN 8:11b.

IX. REFERENCES

1. "The Genius of Chrysostom's Preaching." Carl A. Volz. Christianity Today, Issue 44, Volume XIII, Number 4, page 24.
2. "The Bible, King James Version - Old and New Testaments, with the Apocrypha" [online]. The Electronic Text Center, University of Virginia.
<http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/kjv.browse.html#kjvbrowse>
3. "Matthew Henry Complete Commentary on the Whole Bible [online]." Crosswalk.com. Visited 3/10/2006 AD
<http://bible.crosswalk.com/Commentaries/MatthewHenryComplete/>