



# Calvary of Albuquerque

Scribbling on the Ground - John 8:1-11

From the Series, Believe:879

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## MESSAGE SUMMARY

Can you imagine what a surviving copy of Jesus' autograph would be worth today? Or what about a letter to His disciples? The fact is, there is no existing document or copy of anything Jesus ever wrote. We only have this story of Him scribbling something in transient dust on the Temple stones. Though John doesn't tell what Jesus wrote that day, his account does reveal a lot about Jesus Himself and how He interacted with three different kinds of folks.

## OUTLINE

### I. Jesus is Meek with People (7:53-8:2)

A. Where He Stayed

B. How He Taught

### II. Jesus is Masterful with Hypocrites (vv. 3-9)

A. Their False Motives

B. His Firm Dealing

1. He Wrote on the Ground

2. He Spoke to the Men

### III. Jesus is Merciful with Sinners (vv. 10-11)

A. His Question

B. His Command



## Making it More Than a Sermon:

1. Why do you think hypocrisy is so abhorrent to God? (See Matthew 15:7-8)
2. What sorts of "stones" do you find it easiest to have and throw? What makes you qualified to either have them or hurl them?

## DETAILED NOTES

The theme of this text, as of the entire Gospel, is Jesus Christ. The focus is not the Scribes and Pharisees, not the woman caught in adultery, but how Jesus handles hypocrites, those in sin, and what He did and said.

This text is not included in all ancient manuscripts. It is not placed here in all manuscripts that do include it (placed just after Luke 21:38; John 7:36; John 7:44; End of Gospel of John). Most every scholar believes it is biblical, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and part of Scripture. It fits the pattern of John: an incident followed by a message.

### I. Jesus is Meek with People (7:53-8:2)

A. Where He Stayed

1. Everyone went to his own house
2. Jesus went to the Mount of Olives
  - a. East of Jerusalem
  - b. Garden of Gethsemane
  - c. Jesus did not have a home to go to
3. Humility
  - a. Left heaven to come to earth - Philippians 2:6-7
  - b. No place to lay His head - Matthew 8:20

- c. No family burial plot
- B. How He Taught
  - 1. No fanfare
  - 2. Took His place among men; sat on ground; let people come around Him
  - 3. Served, taught, and ministered to them
    - a. Gave Himself a ransom for many - Matthew 20:28
    - b. Came not to be served, but to serve - Matthew 20:28
  - 4. He was in the treasury; the court of the women
- II. Jesus is Masterful with Hypocrites (vv. 3-9)
  - A. Their False Motives
    - 1. Scribes
      - a. Copied the law on scrolls
      - b. Lawyers
      - c. Argued the meaning of the text
    - 2. Pharisees
      - a. Dominant religious influence
      - b. 600 at the time of Jesus
      - c. Controlled the religious atmosphere
    - 3. They are trying to trap him, ask the impossible and unanswerable
      - a. Customary to "ask the rabbi"
      - b. Caught in the very act of adultery
        - i. Seventh commandment - Exodus 20:14
        - ii. One of three "biggies" (idolatry, murder, adultery)
        - iii. Capital punishment - Leviticus 20; Deuteronomy 2
          - 1. Stoning
          - 2. Death by strangulation (Mishna)
          - 3. Jews hadn't practiced capital punishment for 1000 years
          - 4. Romans had stripped Jews of the right to enact capital punishment
        - iv. Sanhedrin themselves were involved in adultery
          - i. One-sided misinterpretation (where is the man?)
      - c. If Jesus said no, He would go against the Law of Moses
      - d. If Jesus said yes, He would ruin his reputation as "friend of sinners"
    - 4. The crowd probably had stones in hand; would blame Jesus
  - B. His Firm Dealing
    - 1. Wrote on the ground - Jeremiah 17:13
      - a. Kategraphen - to write a record or an accusation
        - i. Kata - to make accusation
        - ii. Grapho - to write
      - b. They continued asking Him
    - 2. He Spoke to the Men
      - a. Powerful words
      - b. Raises from a legal issue to a spiritual issue
        - 1. Anamartetos - unerring, faultless, without sin
        - 2. Only Jesus has qualification to "throw a stone"
      - c. They reacted with deep conviction (the older had more to remember)
- III. Jesus is Merciful with Sinners (vv. 10-11)
  - A. His Question
    - 1. He deals with her one on one (personal relationship)
    - 2. Addresses her as woman (restoring dignity)
  - B. His Command
    - 1. Not easy on sin (sin no more)
    - 2. Called it sin, an offense against God
    - 3. A true believer wouldn't presume on the grace of God - Romans 6:1-2

#### Application

- 1. Notice how sinners treat sinners: brutally.
- 2. Notice how the Law treats sinners: sets the standard, but can't cleanse the soul. - Ezekiel 18:4
- 3. Notice how Jesus treats sinners: righteousness and mercy meet in Christ. He is the substitutionary atonement for sin. - Romans 8:1; 2 Corinthians 5:21

Figures referenced: John RW Stott; Phillip Schaff; William Shakespeare

Cross references: Exodus 20:14; Leviticus 20; Deuteronomy 22; Jeremiah 17:13; Matthew 8:20; Matthew 20:28; Romans 6:1-2; Philippians 2:6-7