

## THE UN-THROWN STONES

*"Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery; in the very act...the law commands us that such should be stoned. But what do you say?...Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear. So when they continued asking Him. He raised Himself up and said to them, 'He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.' and again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. Then those who heard it went out one by one." See John 8:3-11*

What did Jesus write in the loose ground which lay at His feet? There are many theories as to what it was. It was certainly for those who stood ready to stone the woman and it was directly related to the words He spoke with authority to them. *"He who is without sin."*

Perhaps it was His favorite word which He often used when describing the religious people of His day. *'Hypocrites'* He called them. If He wrote this word on the ground, their hearts would be pricked within them for they well knew their own guilt of sin. Some say he wrote down the sin of each man that was ready to stone the woman. Jesus needed no man to tell Him because He knew what was in man's heart. He knew the Scribes and Pharisees were trying to trap Him into denying the Law of Moses. Perhaps He simply turned the Law back against them.

Whatever He wrote, when He said *"Let him who is without sin cast the first stone,"* it was enough to cause them to drop their stones and walk away. What is the moral of this story? Let me ask you, what is your attitude toward sinners? Jesus looked upon them with compassion and His desire was not to condemn them but to try and point them on the right path. He did not turn His back on them as many did. Jesus said that the person who is well does not need a physician. He said that He had come to seek and to save that which was lost. His admonishment to the woman was; *"Go and sin no more."*

It is good to condemn sin, but it is never good to judge the sinner. Jesus said that He did not come to bring judgment to the world for they would be judged by the words that He spoke. (or wrote)

Jesus was often found in the company of what many considered to be sinners. If your desire is to witness to sinners then we need to do it like Jesus did. First make a friend, and then make a convert. The testimony of a friend is more likely to be received than one from a stranger. We need to take care of the witness part and let God take care of the 'conviction' part.

**DON'T THROW STONES!**