

No Condemnation

Scripture Reference:

1 Samuel 30:1-8: (NLT): *Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. ³ The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group ⁴ and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. ⁵ In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” ⁶ They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. ⁷ When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” “No one, sir,” she said. “Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.” When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”*

Main Idea: Jesus came to establish a new covenant because the old covenant use and effectiveness was fading. The old covenant is successful in revealing our lack of righteousness, but it doesn't have the power to make us righteous.

Three Thoughts On Jesus Fulfilling the Law and Destroying Condemnation:

- 1) **Jesus does not relax the law** - Jesus raised the standard of the law in Matthew chapter 5 so that we would not simply examine our actions, but our hearts and minds as well.

Matthew 5:21-22 (NLT): *“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment.”*

Question: Are there times where you find yourself desiring to abide by the law more than the challenge of how Jesus is calling us to?

- 2) **Jesus personally fulfilled the law** - If we find ourselves at the feet of Jesus in the same manner that the woman caught in adultery did, we can rest knowing Jesus is our stand-in, perfect sacrifice.

Galatians 2:21 (NIV): *“I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!”*

Galatians 3:11 (NIV): *“Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because ‘the righteous will live by faith.’”*

- 3) **Jesus shuts the mouth of our adversary** - Daniel was spared in the lion's den in the same way God spared the woman caught in adultery; by shutting the mouth of the enemy.

Daniel 6:21-22 (NIV): *“Daniel answered, Long live the king!” My God sent his angel to shut the lions’ mouths so that they would not hurt me, for I have been found innocent in his sight. And I have not wronged you, Your majesty.”*

Question: Daniel’s attitude towards the king remained respectful and kind even after the king’s thoughtless decree put Daniel's life in jeopardy. Why is the way Daniel responded so valuable?

Closing: Faith leads to salvation not the law. The law serves as written proof of God’s will and standard. But Gentiles came to righteousness without the aid of the law. The law was being used as a means of righteousness instead of pointing us to our need for a Savior as it was intended. We must remember that all scripture points to Jesus and the relationship with His Father.

Call to action: We are never more like the enemy when we accuse and condemn. This week be intentional about being slow to accuse and quick to patience. Also, be slow in condemning others and quick in your desire to relieve others from their burdens, that you may be equipped to help them handle.