

Is There Any Hope Left Behind

(Part 1)

“Then each went to his own home. But 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. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” 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. When they kept on questioning Him, He straightened up and said to them, “If any one of you is without sin, let him 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” (John 7:53-8:11)

Oh, he is a gambler, she is a harlot, he is a drunkard, he is a sorcerer, she is witchcraft, and she is wicked. He is a homosexual, she is a lesbian. They were from Sodom, we saw them in Gomorrah. They had been caught in a robbery, they spent their life in the prison, and they have bad history. He was caught one time in adultery. No, no, two times! He is a drug addict, they are working in drug traffic, and they are smuggling marijuana! He is infected with AIDS! Hopeless! Keep him aside. Turn your face from them. They are beyond repair!

The above, we may have heard but two things are in great intimacy. First is the sin, and second is the sinner. Whenever you find one of them you will meet the other! But *first*, the two are of great differences, and *second*, their unity can be broken. God hates sins, but He loves the sinners, for they can still be restored.

How do we look at the people around us? To those who are externally marked by sins, how are we dealing with them? Actually, their unhidden sins give them ugly figures, allowing other people to scorn them, to condemn them, and make them detestable to people’s mind and in the society that they live in.

Is there any hope left for such people who are recognized as sinners? Yes! It is easy to say yes for this question, but difficult to relate such to the extent that even some of us are unaware that such yes can be applicable in our lives.

After a long day of Jesus teaching to the people in the temple and the interruption that He faced from the Pharisees who argued with Him about His identity as Christ, ***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. At that moment the teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?”*** So, they brought a difficult case to a man who is claiming to be the Christ.

Christ means the Anointed One or a King. So they brought to Him a difficult case not because they are righteous but just they exposed the woman to trap Jesus. They reminded Him about the Law of Moses that recommended stoning for such cases, and they wanted Jesus to decide the same. Clearly as the apostle John wrote to us, ***“They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing Him.”*** This is right, they wanted to trap Jesus, but if we will analyze the passage we will discern the shackles that the Pharisees used to tie this woman and the tool they used to bring her in front of the Lord Jesus. In fact, what they used, we are also using as shackles to tie the people’s hands and feet, to judge them, to expose them, and to bring them in front of the people, and these tools are:

1) *Condemnation:* It is good to hate sin, but do not extend your hatred to the sinners. The hatred for both will lead to condemnation. We ought to hate sin but to love the sinners. And this will give rise to life and not condemnation, “this is the message of Jesus, the Christ to the world.”

2) *Self-righteousness:* When we find sins and sinners we have to get a glimpse at ourselves first. Jesus said in ***Matthew 7:3 “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eyes?”*** We remember in details the Ten Commandments when we see others sinning, but we forget them when we found ourselves doing the same. ***Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with His finger.*** What He wrote actually nobody knows. Some suggested that He was writing the Ten Commandments to remind the teachers of the law, the Pharisees, and also reminds us. But they kept asking Him, as we use today, to judge sinners. ***And when they kept on questioning Him, He straightened up and said to them, as He will say to us “If anyone of you is without sin, let Him be the first to throw a stone at Her.”***

3) *Bias:* The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought the woman who was caught in adultery but they dismissed the man who was with her for judgement, and by this they broke the law, ***“If a man commits adultery with another man’s wife-with the wife of his neighbour-both the adulterer and the adulteress must be put to death.”(Leviticus 20:10)*** Maybe the man was a friend to them or they have some dealings with him. And we have the same attitude. We exposed one person, but we hid others who are carrying the same sin, and by this we are bias or showing partiality.

Is there any hope left behind, first for the woman who was caught in adultery. Second, Is there any hope left behind for the teachers of the law, the Pharisees, who left that woman aside? And third, Is there any hope left behind for us to free the people from our accusations. To those who heard Jesus saying, ***“If any one of you is without sin, let Him be the first to throw as stone at her,” they “began to go away one at a time, the older one first, until only Jesus left, with the woman still standing there.”***

My Dear and Beloved: Can we take heed from the message? Is there any hope left for us? Can we stop passing judgement to one another, and stop using the above shackles to arrest the people? Can we leave the sinners for a while and give chance to Jesus to deal with them? Take heed, and God bless you.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life. Lord I repent from _____.* *Lord I focus my eyes unto you and not on others. Lord I commit myself to serve you and live my life to help them to come out from sins and from darkness and help them to come near to you. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*