

Jesus Christ and the Adulteress



John 8:1-11

A woman had been caught committing adultery. According to Mosaic Law such a woman was to have been stoned. The scribes and Pharisees brought her to the Lord Jesus. They were curious to see what he thought about the matter. The Lord Jesus replied: "Whichever one of you has committed no sin may throw the first stone at her." On hearing this, the accusers all left. When the woman eventually stood alone before Jesus Christ, he said to her: "Go, and sin no more."

The children are made aware that all people are sinners and consequently dependent on the grace of God. No one has the right to judge others.

The Lord Jesus spent the night on the Mount of Olives out in the open, under the olive trees, and in silent prayer sought the connection with his heavenly Father. It is now early morning and he is already back in the city in the temple. He has scarcely settled down, when many people begin to gather around him. He begins to tell the people about his heavenly Father and his own tasks here on earth as his Son.

Suddenly several scribes and Pharisees arrive on the scene holding a woman tightly so that she cannot get away. The woman is in despair because she knows that she will be severely punished. Her head hangs despondently. The scribes push her up to the Lord Jesus. Then they say: "Look at this woman! She has been unfaithful to her husband. She is involved with another man and was caught with him. According to Mosaic Law she should be stoned. What do you say to this?"

They presume they can trap Jesus with this question. He thinks: "If I forgive this woman and let her go unpunished, the scribes will reproach me for disregarding the law of Moses. They can then proclaim to the Jews that I do not keep the law. On the other hand, everybody knows that no

one may be executed without a proper Roman trial. If I abide by the law of Moses which demands that the woman be stoned, I transgress Roman law, in which case the scribes know that they can report me to the Romans."

Jesus Christ in his wisdom bends down and writes in the sand with his finger. But the scribes do not leave him in peace. They demand an answer. The Lord Jesus finally straightens up and says: "Whichever one of you has never committed sin may throw the first stone at her."

2

He then bends down again and resumes writing. Several of the bystanders who are already holding stones to throw at the woman drop them. They are conscience-stricken. With bent heads the accusers turn away one by one. The Lord Jesus' answer has touched them deeply. Soon the woman--completely overawed--stands alone before the Lord. He straightens up and says to her: "Where are your accusers? Is there no one left to condemn you?" She replies: "No one, Lord". Then the Lord says to her: "Neither do I condemn you. You may go, but change and better yourself." The woman can scarcely believe it! The Lord Jesus has not uttered one word of reproach! She goes away thankfully.

Jesus is our Saviour and Redeemer



An adulteress was brought to the Lord Jesus. The people wanted to stone her. Jesus Christ said to the accusers: "Whichever one of you is without sin may throw the first stone at her." They all withdrew.

- 1** What were the Lord's tasks? (He told the people about his heavenly Father, of his love for mankind and of his commission to redeem mankind. He urged the people to change and lead those who were willing to God. He brought his great sacrifice so that sin could be forgiven ...)
- 2** We describe the picture. How will the accusers answer the Lord Jesus' challenge? How might this story end?
- 3** What are the accusers thinking on their way home? (I have also made mistakes now and again / Jesus Christ is wise ...)
- 4** What do we learn from the Lord's encounter with the adulteress?
We look at the photograph. (We must be aware that we also make mistakes. That is why we must not judge others when they fail.) We are thankful that our sins and failings are forgiven time and again through the grace of Jesus Christ. But we still try to better ourselves and avoid sin.