



## The Woman Caught in Adultery.

*Also known as, "Casting The First Stone." (John 8:1-11)*

This story tells of how Jesus can see into everybody's heart and is full of mercy for this woman and compassion for all ordinary people.

Jesus had many enemies because he showed them up as 'Two faced', (hypocrites) meaning they were saying one thing in public ... and in private did something else that was against what God wanted. They were the synagogue (Jewish church) leaders known as Pharisees, Sadducees, Scribes, and Temple Priests.

One day they brought to Jesus a woman: "...caught in the act of adultery" they said (having sex) with a man who was not her husband. Jesus 'non-friends' wanted to trap him into saying something that was "Against the Law of Moses." (the man committing adultery is not even mentioned!)

"Tell us Master, should she be stoned to death or not?" Jesus knew exactly what they were after - something to use against him as one who does not follow "The Law of Moses." Jesus did not answer them, but instead drew figures in the ground, but saying nothing. They urged Jesus to answer them. Actually Jesus could not say yes to having her stoned to death - that was for the Roman occupiers (Rome ruled much of the known world then). So Jesus could not say "Yes- stone her." But Jesus also knew that the 'Law of Moses' said she should be stoned.

But ... the accusers were wrong, very wrong in that only a virgin girl betrothed (engaged) to a man should be stoned for adultery.

Jesus knew all this ... as well as the stony, hard hearted motives of the woman's accusers. Jesus silenced them all! He said: "All right ... stone her to death - but only he who has never sinned may cast the first stone." Ouch! Oh! Er...

Beginning with the eldest, they all slowly, walked away ... reminded of their own sins by the Master. Soon nobody was left to accuse the woman. Jesus looked at her. (In a book I have it quotes Augustine of Hippo on this matter: "Here misery and mercy met." (so very true and profound)



Jesus said: "Where are your accusers?"  
She replied: "They are all gone Sir."  
And Jesus replied: "Neither do I condemn you.  
Go, and leave your life of sin."

Love and compassion was the hallmark of Jesus' ministry in his three years as the 'Messiah' ... God's chosen one. (John 8:1-11)  
I like this story.

