

## Outline of Fr. Patrick Winslow's Lecture on Lesson 10

### I. First Approach = Background.

- A. Jesus has been accusing the scribes and Pharisees of being sinners and hypocrites because they do not abide by the law of Moses.
  - 1. John 7, "did not Moses give you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law."
    - a. The scribes and Pharisees do not regard themselves as sinners or hypocrites. They are self-righteous.
  - 2. Mosaic Law
    - a. This woman's adulterous offense is punishable by death.
    - b. The judgment would require two or three witness to obtain a conviction.
    - c. The capital offense however could not be exacted because it was considered an act of insurrection under the Roman authority.

### II. Second Approach - What is happening in this text?

- A. The scribes and Pharisees set out to trap our Lord.
  - 1. They are angry. They were accused by our Lord as being sinners and hypocrites who do not follow the law of Moses.
  - 2. They set a trap for our Lord by presenting an adulterous woman - to their minds there are only two possible outcomes.
    - a. If our Lord is faithful to the law of Moses → He will have to condemn her and call for her execution → lead Him to be accused of insurrection under the civil law - an offense punishable by death.
    - b. If our Lord does not call for her death → He is the hypocrite - by not obeying Mosaic Law.
- B. Our Lord is presented with the trap.
  - 1. He turns the trap back upon them. By responding, "let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her."
    - a. First, our Lord is faithful to the Law of Moses. He implicitly agrees with the application of Mosaic Law.
    - b. Secondly, the manner by which our Lord calls for her to be executed is stoning - particularly by those who are without sin.
      - i. The scribes and Pharisees in their own mind are without sin. They are self-righteous. Therefore, they think they can pick up the stones.
    - c. However, once they begin to think about it, they recognize a trap has been set upon them.
      - i. If they kill her, they would turn around as planned and turn in our Lord for enforcing a capital punishment - thus leading to His arrest and death sentence.
      - ii. However, once asked how it is that our Lord called for this woman's execution, they would then say, "He said 'let he without sin cast the first stone.'" The civil official would respond, 'you are the ones who killed her, and according to your own testimony Jesus didn't incite you

to kill her because you know very well he considers you all sinners - so He couldn't have been speaking to you.”

- iii. The scribes and the Pharisees would then be the ones to be charged with enforcing a capital punishment and insurrection → leading to their own deaths.
- iv. They are the ones who have to choose between
  - Following Mosaic Law → sacrificing their own lives, or
  - Not following Mosaic Law → proving themselves to be hypocrites.

C. The scribes and Pharisees prove themselves to be hypocrites and not followers of Mosaic Law.

1. They walk away - beginning with the oldest and wisest - being the ones to first figure out.
2. None of her accusers remain.

D. She is left with no one but Him.

1. He does not accuse her.
2. To further demonstrate our Lord's perfect adherence to Mosaic Law, two or three witnesses are necessary. Now that her accusers are all gone, she is not only acquitted by our Lord, but by Mosaic Law as well.

E. Our Lord writes with His finger in the dirt (twice).

1. First, this communicates a close eyewitness account.
2. Second, this communicates the imperturbability of our Lord in the face of such schemes, snares and traps.

### III. Third Approach - What are the pastoral points?

A. Be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.

B. The continuity and fulfillment of Mosaic Law in the works and teachings of our Lord.

C. The mercy of Our Lord to bring about our conversion.

1. He says, “neither do I condemn you; go, and do not sin again.”
2. He did **not** say, “neither do I condemn you; go, and it's ok if you do it again because nothing you can ever do will separate you from me.”
  - i. This is a common misunderstanding.