

Woman Taken in Adultery

by Steve Barwick

Every event recounted by Christ or His disciples in the Bible has a hidden meaning. And understanding the hidden meaning behind these events brings new light to our understanding of the Word of God and indeed, to our understanding of the *way* of God, which is to say, the *policies* of God.

In John chapter 8 a very interesting event unfolded which we're going to examine in this study, hopefully with a fresh pair of eyes. A woman caught in the act of adultery was brought before Christ right in the temple of God. And the Jewish religious leaders requested that Christ pronounce sentence upon her, knowing that under the law, the sentence for adultery was death by stoning.

As you'll see in the following study, Christ demurred. He refused to fall into the trap the Jewish religious leaders had laid for Him. Indeed, as you'll see later in this study, He refused to fall into the trap the Jewish religious leaders had laid for *the Christian church* as a whole.

In just a moment, we'll take a look at that Biblical event and see if we can determine the hidden meaning, and learn what the Jewish religious leaders were actually up to in bringing the adulterous woman to Christ in the temple, for sentencing.

But first, I want to remind you that previous to this event, another incident had taken place inside the temple of God. This incident is recounted in Matthew chapter 21. Christ was teaching in the temple. And the Jewish religious leaders approached Him, demanding He tell them by what authority did He preach and teach and work His miracles, and who gave Him that authority.

Christ responded with a series of questions and short parables. Then, He did something I still consider quite amazing. Knowing that the Jewish religious leaders were surreptitiously plotting His death, *He tricked them into pronouncing their own death sentences upon themselves.*

How did He do this?

He told them a parable about a land owner who had planted a vineyard, put a hedge around it for protection against predators, dug a winepress inside of it, built a watchtower over it, and then rented it out to tenant farmers (i.e., farmers for hire) as a turn-key operation for producing grapes and wine.

In other words, everything was there for the tenant farmers. All they had to do was work the vineyard, harvest the grapes, and turn them into wine at the end of the growing season. And they'd share in the profits with the landowner who had built and paid for the entire operation from scratch.

This was a common practice in the Middle East at that time. It was a great way for landowners with extra land to make profitable use of their land, and for people who didn't have land of their

own to essentially go into business for themselves.

Let's quickly examine the parable Christ told the Jewish religious leaders in the temple. Then we'll return to the event in which the Jewish religious leaders brought to Him in that same temple the woman taken in adultery, and we'll see how the two stories relate to each other. Keep in mind that in the following parable, Christ is talking directly to the upper echelon of the Jewish religious leaders:

Mat 21:33 Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country:

Mat 21:34 And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it.

The landowner (i.e., "householder") had built the whole operation from the ground up, and essentially leased it out to the tenant farmers (i.e., "husbandmen") in return for a share of the profits. But when the landowner sent some of his servants to get his share of the profits at the end of the growing season, the tenant farmers were none too happy about it. They wanted to keep all of the profits for themselves. So here's what they did:

Mat 21:35 And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another.

Nice folks, huh? These tenant farmers had a sweet deal with the landowner. But at the end of the growing season they didn't want to keep their end of the bargain. They wanted to keep the fruits of their labor all to themselves, in spite of the fact it was someone else's land they'd been farming on. So they beat and killed and stoned the servants that had been sent by the landowner to collect his rightful due.

Mat 21:36 Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise.

Mat 21:37 But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son.

This was a very patient landowner. He sent multiple people to collect his rightful due from these ungrateful and resentful tenant farmers. But over the long course of time they had come to think of the land as their own. And they deeply resented having to give the landowner, who had built the entire operation from scratch, his share of the profits.

So as a last resort, the landowner sent his *own son* to them, thinking they would give him due reverence as the heir to the property... repent of their greediness and their wicked ways.....and pay him the share of profits owed.

Now you likely already know this parable is actually about the Kenites – those wicked sons of Cain who in Christ's time lived in the Middle East land of Israel pretending to be Jews (i.e.,

Revelation 2:9 and 3:9) and rising into power as “Jewish” religious leaders. They had no right to the land of Israel. Nor did they have any right to work in the temple, for that land and its temple belonged to God and His people. But they infiltrated God’s People Israel (i.e., Jude 1:4) and set up shop there in the temple of God and plied their religious trade, just as they do today in the final generation of this flesh earth age (i.e., Revelation 2:9 and 3:9).

But instead of bringing the harvest from their religious labor in the temple to God, they instead greedily kept everything for themselves. In other words, instead of laboring to bring the people of Israel to God, through His Word, so they could become members in good standing of God’s eternal family household, they turned God’s temple into a merchandising operation, essentially “playing church” and ripping off the people for everything they could get, and keeping it all for themselves with no thought whatsoever of turning the hearts and minds of the people back to God so they could be saved.

And now it gets worse. Much worse...

Mat 21:38 But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance.

The “son” in this parable, of course, is representative of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. God is the landowner who turned over the land of Israel to these tenant farmers, who are in reality the Kenites – the false Jews of Revelation 2:9 and 3:9.

This parable proves that the upper echelon of the Jewish religious leaders – the Kenites, who pretend to be Jews – knew that Jesus Christ was the rightful heir of God and the future ruler of the land of Israel. But they didn’t care. They thought if they could just kill Him, they could keep the land for themselves and continue their wicked religious merchandizing operation unhindered.

Mat 21:39 And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him.

They used Judas Iscariot to catch Christ, then they used the Romans to take Christ outside of the city of Jerusalem to that hill known as Golgotha, and had Him crucified there.

Remember, Christ Jesus is telling this parable. This shows you that He knew murder was in the hearts of the Jewish religious leaders. He knew they were plotting to have Him crucified. Now, as you’re about to see, Christ asks the Jewish religious leaders standing there with Him in the temple a very simple question about the characters in His parable:

Mat 21:40 When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen?

Jesus asked the Jewish religious leaders what they think should happen to those tenant farmers, due to their unrepentant theft, ongoing violence and murder. And the Jewish religious leaders instantly replied:

Mat 21:41 They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons.

And that's where the Jewish religious leaders pronounced their own sentence upon themselves. They had been doing precisely what the itinerant farmers in Christ's parable had been doing, i.e., robbing the rightful owner of the land (i.e., God) of His rightful due, and killing off the servants He had sent to them.

In other words, down through the ages the Jewish religious leaders had been running the show at the temple, which in Christ's parable is represented by the vineyard. In having charge over the temple, they were supposed to be "planting seed," meaning teaching the truth of God's Word so that spiritual growth could take place and God's children could gradually mature in His Word and ultimately return to His eternal family household. That's known as the spiritual harvest which these Jewish religious leaders were supposed to have been producing.

But the Jewish religious leaders instead turned the temple worship service into a money-making operation. And down through the ages, every time God sent one of His prophets or teachers to set things right and start making sure God's children were being correctly taught and led to Him, the Jewish religious leaders had them beaten, stoned and killed. In other words, these religious leaders made martyrs of God's servants whenever He'd send them.

This is why Christ would later say of these very same Jewish religious leaders:

"Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city: That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation [i.e., offspring]." (Matthew 23:33-36)

Now Jesus continues addressing the Jewish religious leaders:

Mat 21:42 Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?

Here we see Christ referring the Jewish religious leaders back to the Word of God (i.e., Psalm 118:22-23), reminding them that God's Word prophesied long ago that the Messiah of God would be rejected, but would nevertheless ultimately become the King and ruler of the land.

Mat 21:43 Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

Here, Christ tells the Jewish religious leaders they're ultimately going to lose their lucrative

religious operation. What's more, the job of spiritual harvest, which is to say, the job of bringing people to the Lord through His Word, would be turned over to others.

In other words, after the crucifixion, *Christianity* would become the vehicle through which the people of this world would be brought back into God's eternal family household, and Judaism would no longer be part of the kingdom of God, for they had rejected God's Son, which is to say, God's true King as well as His dominion over the land.

Mat 21:44 And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

Christ further explained to the Jewish religious leaders that by going against Him, they were all going to die. In other words, short of sincere repentance and turning to Christ for salvation, they had lost their opportunity for eternal life.

Mat 21:45 And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, **they perceived that he spake of them.**

Ah, yes. Indeed He did speak of them. And He essentially had tricked these religious leaders of the temple into pronouncing with their own mouths the death penalty upon their own heads.

Mat 21:46 But when they sought to lay hands on him, they feared the multitude, because they took him for a prophet.

Yep, they tried right there to kill Jesus. But there were too many people watching. This is your Judaic religious community, beloved. To this very day they call themselves "God's chosen people." But the reality is this: Jesus Christ is life. There is no other who can save. Yet they reject Christ with a vehemence and hatred unlike any other religion. Therefore, their own lives are forfeit as a result.

They can call themselves "God's chosen people" all they want. But when they had Him murdered on that cross at Calvary, they lost their place in the Kingdom of God, and that place was given to the faithful followers of Christ. They can still repent and be saved. But as a general rule, they don't. Their hatred of Christ (and Christianity) is that great.

The Woman Taken in Adultery

Now let's take a look at the incident in which the woman caught in the act of adultery was brought before Christ in that very same temple, by those very same Jewish religious leaders, and He was asked, in essence, to pronounce the death sentence upon her. Can these Jewish religious leaders trick Christ into pronouncing the death penalty on her, as Christ had tricked them into pronouncing the death penalty upon their own heads? Let's see...

John 8:1-2 Jesus went unto the Mount of Olives. And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them.

Christ often went to the Mount of Olives to pray and to commune with God before teaching in the temple. Notice the stage. Christ is right in the midst of the temple. And all of the people – each one being adherents to the religion of Judaism -- are there, watching Him and listening to Him.

John 8:3 And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst,

They brought an adulterous woman to Christ, right there at the temple. Why did they bring this woman to Him *at the temple*? They were testing Jesus. They wanted to see if they could use peer pressure – the power of the crowd -- to goad Him into pronouncing a death sentence upon her. Because they had death in their own hearts, they wanted Christ to join them in condemning this woman to death, without a chance for repentance, and without mercy.

Of course, we know from Revelation 12:10 that Satan is “the accuser of our brethren.” Indeed, as it’s written, he accuses God’s children before God “day and night.” And as the old saying goes, “The fruit does not fall far from the family tree.” In accusing the woman of adultery, these Jewish religious leaders were doing Satan’s work and Satan’s will, not God’s.

To grasp this account fully, and to understand how it applies to Christianity as a whole, you have to understand that our Lord and Savior has a bride He’ll be returning for at His Second Advent. That bride is the Christian church. Unfortunately, upon His return, His bride will be found to have been taken in adultery. She will have been caught in the act of spiritual fornication with the antichrist, who is Satan himself in his role of the false messiah.

That’s because the vast majority of the Christian church today has been set up by their own preachers to believe that the first miracle-working supernatural being who sets foot on this earth at Jerusalem is Jesus. But in reality, the Scripture clearly states in II Thessalonians 2:1-4 that the antichrist will arrive to this earth *first* seating himself in the temple of God at Jerusalem and pretending to be God. And Christians will flock to him, resulting in what St. Paul refers to as the great “falling away,” or *apostasy*.

Are you getting the picture? The woman in this story is a type of the Christian church – the bride of Christ – being caught red-handed in spiritual adultery at the end of this flesh earth age when the antichrist arrives pretending to be the Messiah of God.

So does our Lord and Savior want His wayward bride killed over this deception? No, He does not! He wants her *saved*. But the false Jews want her killed for her adultery, such is their jealousy over her and their hatred of Christ.

They know they can’t defeat Christ. The only way they can hurt Him is if they set things set up in advance so that Christ in His wrath has to judge and kill His own bride for spiritual adultery at His Second Advent. After all, spiritually speaking she’ll be found whoring after the antichrist at that time.

If you don't understand the analogy, think upon what I've told you as you continue reading St. John's account of Christ and the woman taken in adultery:

John 8:4 They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.

John 8:5 Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: **but what savest thou?**

The Jewish religious leaders in the temple of God wanted Jesus to pronounce the death sentence upon this woman. They wanted Him to justify their blood lust. If He did so, then *prophetically speaking* He would be pronouncing the death sentence upon His own future wife, the Bride of Christ, which is to say, those of His children He hopes to save and make "one" with Himself through His redeeming act on the cross.

Do you see in this account the "long game" Satan plays? It's a bit like a chess match between God and the devil himself, with each one planning their moves far in advance in hopes of winning. Only Satan, as wise as he might be, is no match for our heavenly Father and His Christ.

John 8:6 This they said, tempting him, that they might have [reason] to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not.

The Jewish religious leaders thought they had Christ in quite a vice. If Christ disavowed the law of Moses and set the adulterous woman free, they would have religious grounds to have Him cast out of the temple and killed. And if He went along with their bloodlust and pronounced the death penalty upon her, then prophetically speaking He would be pronouncing the death penalty upon his own wayward bride at the end of this flesh earth age.

Clearly, the Jewish religious leaders were not doing the work of God. They were doing the work of Satan himself. So ignoring their demands, Jesus stooped down to write something on the ground. I submit that what He wrote down on that ground were their own grievous sins.

John 8:7 So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.

The subject matter is their sins. That's your clue as to what Jesus had written on the ground – their own wicked sins. Can you imagine their surprise when they looked down at the ground to see what He had been writing, and saw their own secret sins spelled out?

John 8:8 And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground.

Perhaps this time He wrote down the Biblical *penalties* which corresponded to their sins. After all, they were seeking to mete out a Biblical penalty on this woman. They were asking Him to participate in the woman's death by stoning. Removing mercy from the equation, they hoped He could be goaded into going along with them, in front of the people in the temple who had come

to be taught by Him.

Again, it's important to remember that our heavenly Father sends Christ at His second advent to *save* His wayward children, not to destroy them. Though many Christians will be caught at that time in the act of spiritual adultery with the antichrist, our heavenly Father allows that to happen in order to teach them a great lesson. He wants His bride to know that without His Word being taught correctly in the churches, she would end up unwittingly embracing the devil himself as her savior, and jump straight into bed with him, spiritually speaking.

Yes, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will arrive to this earth at His second advent wielding His rod of correction. And He ushers in the great winepress of the wrath of God. And many people will be caught in that winepress, including many *Christians* who thought they were serving God but instead were serving the antichrist, which is to say, Satan himself pretending to be the messiah of God at Jerusalem.

But thankfully, it's not the end for them. The great Millennium teaching period follows, and those who were caught in the act of spiritual adultery at Christ's Second Advent will have the opportunity to accept Christ's redeeming grace and abounding mercy during the course of that thousand year teaching period.

That's why He paid the price on that cross at Calvary as the Passover Lamb – the sacrificial Lamb of God. He did it for *His bride*, which ultimately consists of all of His children who will come to Him in repentance, seeking to be saved. And that's why we should always let Him know we love Him for everything He has done for all of us in providing that atoning sacrifice.

John 8:9 And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

The Jewish religious leaders were “convicted by their own conscience.” Do you think maybe He wrote their sins down in that same order, from eldest to youngest, for emphasis?

At the great White Throne Judgment of Revelation chapter 20, which takes place at the end of the millennium teaching period, Satan, the accuser, and all of his followers will be cast into the lake of fire, never to exist again. They will be burned up from within (Ezekiel 28:18; Psalm 37:20).

And at that point in time the “woman” -- the bride of Christ who betrayed her Betrothed by falling away to Satan when he arrived in his role as the antichrist -- will be standing there with Him, *alone*, awaiting her own judgment.

What will happen to her at that time? The answer is easy: If she's repented of her spiritual adultery, and acknowledged Christ as her Lord and Savior, she'll be forgiven. Let's see...

John 8:10 When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?

John 8:11 She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

Notice she called him "Lord." The self-righteous religious leaders who played the role of the Satanic accusers would not recognize Him as their Lord. But the adulteress did. And since there were no accusers left, He gave the appropriate legal doctrinal ruling. She should go forth, and sin no more.

John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

The people sat in the temple watching this entire episode play out before them, like a Shakespearian play. And when it was over, He spoke again, telling the people that He was the Messiah, the Light of the world, and the very fulfillment of Isaiah 9:2, standing right in front of them, i.e., "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined."

In other words, He was giving them His *credentials* for taking to task the woman's accusers... for forgiving and releasing the adulteress and instructing her in the way of righteousness (i.e., "go forth and sin no more")...and for teaching the people in the temple of God each day. He was hoping they could see the type of the Millennium teaching period being played out right before their eyes. *Can you?*

John 8:13 The Pharisees therefore said unto him, Thou bearest record of thyself; thy record is not true.

The Pharisees are calling Him a liar to His face, right there in the temple. Even today, the Jewish religious leaders claim that Christ was a liar and a false prophet who deserved His doom. In their so-called "holy book," the Talmud, they claim Christ Jesus is roasting in hell in hot excrement for His supposed "sins" against the temple and the people of Israel.

Here, they're angry with Christ that the woman was not stoned to death right there in the temple of God. And to this very day, the spirit of wickedness and maliciousness that possesses the Jewish religious leaders stands in stark contrast to the great mercy and saving grace of Jesus Christ.

Do you see why the Jewish religious leaders to this very day work so diligently to usher in their false messiah, the antichrist, and to make sure the rest of the world – including most of the Christian church – ends up whoring after him?

They hope that our Lord and Savior, at His Second Advent, when faced with such a breach of the law by His own bride, will be forced to condemn her to death for committing spiritual adultery. And they had hoped they could get Christ to pronounce that death sentence upon His wayward bride *far in advance*, just as He'd gotten them to pronounce the death penalty upon their own heads for plotting His murder by Roman crucifixion.

But their clever attempt failed. And in the end all of their ongoing attempts to take down God's Christian children will backfire on them.

Our Lord and Savior knows who these religious leaders really are (Revelation 2:9 and 3:9). He knows what they're doing, and that their work is in service to Satan, and not to God. He recognizes their treachery for exactly what it is. And because He loves His wayward children, He will forgive any who repent of their spiritual adultery, and who return to Him as their Lord and Savior, either now, or during the Millennium teaching period.

And that's the hidden meaning in the story of the woman taken in adultery. To fully understand it, you have to "see" it in relation to Christ's parable of the tenant farmers. But when you do, you'll understand exactly what *spiritual warfare* is, and how it's played out between God and His enemies.

If anything, this study should have taught you that our enemies are very wise in the ways of the world. They play the game of spiritual brinkmanship like no others. But like Christ, we have to be even wiser *in the Spirit of God's Word*. As Christ told His disciples, "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves." (Matthew 10:16)

In other words, we have to recognize God's enemies for exactly what they are and how they operate. And like Christ, who saw through the game being played by the Jewish religious leaders with the woman taken in adultery, we have to let His great love for His children be our guide. As I've stated many times, the Lord's *will* can be summed up in four words: "To save His children" (John 6:40). He's not out to zap them for their sins. He's out to instruct them in righteousness, and to save them.

As it's written in I Corinthians 2:16, "For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? *But we have the mind of Christ.*" So stay in God's Word, beloved. And continue to learn His ways. That's how you grow wiser and wiser in the mind of Christ. And the enemies of God will not be able to trip you up -- now, or in the end -- just as they could not trip up Christ Jesus in the temple.

-- End --

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