



# The Accused

A South Pacific Christian Ministries Bible Study

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## Instructions

This study is designed to use questions and scriptures to enable believers to gain understanding of the topic. While it may be used for individual study, it is designed for a group setting. The Leader's Guide provides a group leader with additional information, scripture passages, and directional comments to enable and direct the discussion. The questions provided are designed to direct the discussion and enable participants to gain insight into the topic.

Group Leaders should read the summary and Leader's Guide prior to the meeting. It is also helpful if you read the scriptures and answer the questions in the Study Question section. The Study Question should be provided to participants in advance of the group meeting so that they have time to read the scriptures and answer the questions. During the group meeting follow the Leader's Guide, reading the scripture passages as they are presented, read or discuss the information presented. It is helpful to have members of the group read the scriptures out loud. Ask the questions in the order that they appear in the Leader's Guide. Keep in mind the recommended answer participants present their answers. Depending on the answers provided by the group, you may want to ask additional questions to help them see the recommend answer.

It should be noted that this and our other studies often reference scriptural symbolism. As with the parables that Jesus told, a scriptural symbolism represents a deeper truth found within a passage. In order for scriptural symbolism to be valid it must line up with scripture and be supported by scripture and conform to the character of God.

All scripture references found in this study are the King James version, unless otherwise noted. Do not use or allow the use of none scripture references during the discussion. In particular, so called lost books, the Apocrypha books or any other book or material not included in the Bible. While Apocrypha books are part of the Catholic bible, they are not included in the Protestant bible due to contradictions with other scriptures. If a scripture used by a group participant seems questionable, compare it to the King James and Amplified versions.

Also, in a group setting, do not allow anyone to dominate the discussion. If one member talks too much, it will hinder others. Don't allow group members to challenge directly the answers of other group members. Keep in mind that the answers presented in the Leader's Guide, are not the final or only acceptable answers. These answers serve as a guide to direct the discussion and impart insight.

If you are using this study for your personal study time, then read the summary, scripture referenced in the Study Question section and then answer the questions. Make sure that you read and study the scriptures used in the Study. After you have completed the Study Question section, then read the Leader's Guide and compare your answers to those in the Leader's Guide.

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## About Us

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South Pacific Christian Ministries is a Non-Denomination Missions Oriented Ministry that sprang out of a small tourist focused church in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. After 16 years serving as the Senior Pastor the LORD redirected our steps from the little chapel by the sea to the small island communities of the South Pacific.

Our Vision is to bring the living water to the small islands of the South Pacific; a vision summed up in the Hawaiian phrase Ke Ola Wai, which means the living water. Ke Ola Wai encompassing our greatest spiritual and physical need, pure spiritual and physical water.

Our Mission is to meet the spiritual and physical needs of the people who live on the small islands of the South Pacific that can only be reached by boat. To bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to their shores, assisting local Pastors, providing Bible Training for believers and conducting outreaches to draw in non-believers. To provide gravity fed, family sized, reverse osmosis water filters; emergency medical supplies; medical services; and disaster response training.

## Summary

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The woman caught in adultery is a story of Grace, Truth, God's Mercy and His great Love for us. This event shows us the heart of the Father and His desire above all else to restore us to a right relationship with Him. Through the images and words of the story of the adulteress woman brought before Jesus we can see ourselves.



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## Leaders Guide

When you read a passage, such as the adulteress brought before Jesus by the Scribes and Pharisees, it is important to understand the Old Testament laws referenced. These passages should also be studied with an eye for the symbolism or images presented and what they mean for you individually.

John 8:1-5

- 1 Jesus went unto the mount of Olives.
- 2 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.
- 3 And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst,
- 4 They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.
- 5 Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?

There are many questions about the actions of the Jewish leaders regarding this woman. First, how did they manage to catch her in the act of adultery? Was she known as an adulteress in that town? Was she the wife of one of them? How were they trying to trap Jesus by their actions?

Question

- 1) Was the woman guilty of a sin worthy of death, according to the Law?
  - o *Yes. Adultery was punishable by death.*

Probation against adultery is the ten commandments and the law of Moses. Under the law someone caught in adultery was supposed to be put to death. There were no exceptions.

Exodus 20:14

- 14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Leviticus 20:10

- 10 And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.

Note that the law required both the man and woman to be put to death, not just the woman. The only reasonable exception might be if one did not know the other was married. In a small town that would not be likely.

The Scribes and Pharisees claim that the woman was caught in the very act of adultery. That begs the question of what happen to the man? How is it that they failed to bring him as well? Also, just how did they know she would be in the very act?

If they elected not to bring the man because he was well known or one them, they would be violating the law. It is unreasonable to think that he could escape unseen if they came upon them while they were in the act.

Question

- 2) Symbolically, who does the woman represent?
  - o *Israel, the Church, Us*



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The woman bought by her accusers before the LORD is a symbolic representation of each of us, along with Israel of the day and the Church today. Israel was guilty of adultery by their worship of other gods and their rejection of God. The Old Testament contains many references of the adulteress behavior of Israel. It is also true of the church and each of us today because of our worship of sport figures, movie stars, musicians, and even religious leaders. When we place anything before God it is spiritual adultery. If watching a game is more important than spending time with God, that is adultery. If the words of a Pastor is held above God's Word, that is adultery. If we place our job or business before God that is also an act of adultery.

## Question

- 3) The Scribes and Pharisees are a symbolic representative of who?
  - o *The accuser, the enemy*

Consider the image that God has painted in the Word through this passage. You have the crowd, Jesus, the accused and the accusers. The event taking place in the temple, representing the throne of God.

## Revelation 12:10

- 10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

The accuser, satan, has stood before God railing accusations against those who worship God, night and day. Once Jesus paid the price for us, then His blood began to speak and He stood in the gap, declaring our righteousness. The Scribes and Pharisees stood before Jesus making accusations against the woman. They acted in the same way as the accuser of the brethren. What's more, they were seeking an opportunity to bring an accusation against Jesus.

## John 8:3-6

- 3 And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst,
- 4 They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.
- 5 Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?
- 6 This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not.

## Question

- 4) Under the law, what should have been done to the woman caught committing adultery?
  - o *She should have been taken out of the city and stoned.*

The Scribes and Pharisees have violated the law by not bringing the man with whom the woman was seen committing the act of adultery. Under the law, if they are proclaiming eye witnesses of the event, then they are also guilty of ignoring the man. Under the law, she should be stoned.

Jesus' actions are a direct statement against the Scribes and Pharisees. He knows their motivations. He knows their hearts. They are the hypocrites declaring her adulteress sin when they have done the same against God. By ignoring them and just writing in the sand, He makes a statement against them.



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## Question

- 5) What, if anything, does the fact that Jesus wrote in the sand signify while the Scribes and Pharisees made their accusations against the woman?
  - *The fact that the Word does not specify what He won't is an indication that what He wrote, if anything, was not important. His actions declared the value He placed in their accusation.*

This event is often presented by Pastors and Teachers indicating that Jesus wrote a list of sins in the sand. While their point may seem plausible, it is only meaningless speculation. If what He wrote was important, the Word would include it. Adding to an event in God's Word is never acceptable, regardless of our motivations. God's Word always stands on its' own value.

## Question

- 6) Does God hear the words of the accuser against us?
  - *He may hear them, but that does not mean He listens.*

## Romans 3:22-26

- 22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:
- 23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
- 24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:
- 25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;
- 26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

## Question

- 7) What does your act of accepting Jesus as your Savior earn you?
  - *Nothing. It was freely given for His Glory. It was not given because of any action on our part; otherwise it would be a debt and not free.*

Notice in Romans 3:22, that it is the righteousness of God which is by the faith of Jesus Christ that is given unto us. It is His faith that enabled us to receive His gift of righteousness. God even provides us with the faith to believe in Him. We bring nothing, but a willing heart.

## Ephesians 1:4-6

- 4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:
- 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,
- 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

## Questions

- 8) What does it mean to be holy and without blame before him in love?
  - *Under the law we may deserve to be condemned, but because of His free gift to us our sin can not be accounted to us.*
- A) Does that mean we can sin without fear?
  - *Deliberately choosing to commit sin is an act of rebellion which brings death.*
- B) What does it mean to be adopted by God?
  - *We become one of His children, adopted and made His own, we have a legal and personal standing with Him.*



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The doctrine of once saved, always saved promoted by some Pastors is not scriptural. Romans 3:25 references “sins past”, not “past and future sin”. Matthew 7:21 declares that it only those who do the will of the Father shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Doing God’s will requires walking in His ways and according to His commands. In other words, not sinning. If I reject what God wants me to do, rebelling against Him, then I am sinning.

There is a difference between committing a sin and choosing a life of sin. Every believer at one point or another will sin. If we don’t sin in the flesh, we will sin with our thoughts. We are not perfect people. But when we sin and have a repentant heart, then He is quick to forgive. It is those who knowingly continue to sin, by their choice, walk away from the salvation provided to them by God.

Matthew 7:21-23

- 21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.
- 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?
- 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

It is those who have made Jesus LORD and SAVIOR who are saved. If you just believe in Him, but do not do the will of God, choosing to walk in sin, then you are not saved. That said, just because you stumble and sin does not mean you automatically loose your salvation. It is the condition of your heart that matters. A believer whose heart is to serve God will find forgiveness for their sin. It is those who knowingly turn from God who walk away from their eternity.

Some believers struggle with sin of one type or another. The solution to that struggle is seeking God and building your relationship with Him. As you grow closer to God, then the desire to sin will no longer have a hold.

John 8:7-11

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

The image of Jesus’ ignoring the woman’s accusers clearly depicts God’s reaction against our accuser. The words have no value, so they are ignored. The enemy is constantly railing against us before God. Thankfully, the blood of Jesus declares our righteousness and the price paid.

The woman had committed a sin worthy of death, but Jesus saw her heart and the heart and motivations of her accusers. Jesus knew that none of her accusers could honestly say that they had no sin. Even if they had, He could have exposed their sin, knowing their hearts. By saying, “he that is without sin among you”, He forced them to take a look at their own hearts, instead of the sin of the woman they accused.

John 8:1-11

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



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Each man, from the oldest to the youngest, examined their own heart and found themselves lacking. The eldest among them turned and left, admitting his own guilt. The others, now confronted by the admission of the eldest of them, were quickened in their own hearts of their sin.

Romans 3:23

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

The woman's accusers, just as each of us, had to admit that they were not perfect. They had to face the sin in their own life. Once her accusers had left, Jesus, asked where were her accusers?

Keep in mind, Jesus was not alone. He had been teaching the people in the temple. All, of which, had heard the accusations against her. Under the law, without witnesses against her, she could not be condemned. It was equally important for her, as well as the other people present, for Jesus to say that He was not condemning her.

## Questions

- 9) Why did Jesus not condemn the woman, knowing that she had sinned a sin worthy of death under the law?
  - *Jesus did not come to judge man, but to provide a path of forgiveness and restoration unto man. John 3:17*
- 10) Does Jesus say to the Church, to us, "where are thy accusers?"
  - *Yes. The "accuser of the brethren" can not justly bring an accusation against someone who has accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior, because the blood speaks for us.*
- 11) When Jesus says, "Neither do I condemn thee:" , what is He saying?
  - *He declares that our sin has not been charged to our account. His blood paid the required price for us.*
- A) Why can we believe that we are not bound by past or current sin once we have confessed those sins?
  - *God's Word declares that the price has been paid and the sin forgiven and forgotten. Romans 3:24-26, Hebrews 8:12, Hebrews 10:15-17*

Jesus also gives the warning "go, and sin no more." He both acknowledged that He knew she had sinned, but warned her not to repeat her sin.

## Question

- 12) What is the danger of habitual sin?
  - *Seared conscience; lines blurred between right and wrong/good and evil.*
- 13) Should we maintain a focus on sinning less?
  - *No, focus on loving Him and getting to know Him and His character. Focusing on sin makes us works oriented. Focusing on God will make us grace oriented.*

There is a significant difference between maintaining a focus on Christ and constantly looking for sin in our life. When we maintaining a focus upon Christ we build our relationship with Him and strengthens us from yielding to sin. It is through an understanding of His great love for us that the lying lure of sin loses its' power and appeal. We choose not to do something that would displease Him or interfere with our relationship with Him.

If we constantly are evaluating our lives for sin, then that places our focus on our failures and on that sin. Besides seeing yourself as a failure, the lure of the sin or the lies of the enemy can cause us to sin again in the same way.





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Since God does not remember a sin that He has forgiven, we should do the same. When we realize that we have sinned in some way and confess that sin, it is gone. Keeping our focus on God keeps our hearts right before Him.

### Question

14) Why is it important to grasp the truth that we walk in the righteousness of Christ, we are accepted into the beloved and we are now the children of God?

- *We know that we are loved no matter what. We know that He is faithful to meet our needs and accomplish His purpose within our lives. We can draw near to Him in any circumstance, and He will not turn away from us.*

The mirror to our life and who we are, must be viewed through God's Word. As a child of God, made righteous by the Blood of Jesus, we are in a unique place, higher than anyone else in God's creation. We can come boldly before God, knowing that we are accepted. We can ask for what we need or desire and know that He will provide every good thing. We can know that we qualify for every promise in His Word that is based on righteousness because He has made us righteous. What is more, we can know, beyond a shadow of doubt, that we are loved by God.



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## Study Questions

Answer the following questions, using scripture to support your answers where appropriate. The goal is to gain understanding, not to adhere to short, pat answers. Don't limit yourself to the space on the page between questions. Write your answers on a separate sheet if necessary. Do not include answers based on the books that are not part of the Bible. The opinions of man and blending the works of man, in particular false books, will hinder your walk and understanding.

### Read

John 8:1-11

Exodus 20:14

Leviticus 20:10

Revelation 12:10

Romans 3:22-28

John 3:17

Hebrews 8:12

Hebrews 10:15-17

Matthew 7:21-23

### Questions

- 1) Was the woman guilty of a sin worthy of death, according to the Law?
- 2) Symbolically, who does the woman represent?
- 3) The Scribes and Pharisees are a symbolic representative of who?
- 4) Under the law, what should have been done to the woman caught committing adultery?
- 5) What, if anything, does the fact that Jesus wrote in the sand signify while the Scribes and Pharisees made their accusations against the woman?
- 6) Does God hear the words of the accuser against us?
- 7) What does your act of accepting Jesus as your Savior earn you?



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- 8) What does it mean to be holy and without blame before him in love?
  - A) Does that mean we can sin without fear?
  - B) What does it mean to be adopted by God?
- 9) Why did Jesus not condemn the woman, knowing that she had sinned a sin worthy of death under the law?
- 10) Does Jesus say to the Church, to us, "where are thy accusers?"
- 11) When Jesus says, "Neither do I condemn thee:", what is He saying?
  - A) Why can we believe that we are not bound by past or current sin once we have confessed those sins?
- 12) What is the danger of habitual sin?
- 13) Should we maintain a focus on sinning less?
- 14) Why is it important to grasp the truth that we walk in the righteousness of Christ, we are accepted into the beloved and we are now the children of God?