

**I did not come  
to  
Abolish the Law**



**Bible Study Series**

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# I did not come to Abolish the Law

Jesus said: "***Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.***" (Matthew 5:17).

## Did He?

A good number of critics whether Christians by name or others from different religions claim that Jesus **did not**.

And they all pick up the story of the woman who was caught in adultery, in the very act, as their best example because Jesus did not order her to be stoned according to the Law of Moses.

So, let us see together if they are correct.

The story goes on as narrated in the Gospel according to Apostle John:

While Christ was sitting teaching in the Temple, the Scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman and set her in the midst and said "*Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act, what do you say?*"

He stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger. And when He gave no answer, they asked Him again. So He raised Himself up and said: "***He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.***" Then He stooped down again and wrote on the ground.

Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, and Jesus was left alone and the woman still standing there. And when Jesus raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He asked her: **“Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?”** She answered: “No one Lord”. Then He said to her **“Neither do I condemn you, go and sin no more”**. (John 8:4-11)

Yes, from the story, it seems clear that Jesus did not condemn her. Now let us analyze what exactly happened: Jesus seemed not to be concerned with the whole story altogether for twice he stooped down and wrote on the ground. Why do you think He did that?

The way I see it, is that He intentionally wanted them to think seriously about what they are doing. They brought a woman to be condemned according to the law, but they themselves broke the Law.

How is that? They forgot that the Law which they are trying to defend says: **“Whoever shall keep the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he is guilty of all”** (James 2:10). For the law states that both the man and the woman should be stoned (Deut. 22:22, 23); but they brought the woman only without the man although they had admitted in verse 4 that the woman was caught in the very act, then where is the man? Or did she commit adultery in the very act with herself!

There is something else, for after they were convicted by their conscience, they left the scene, which puts them in the situation of those who committed false witnessing, since at first they were accusers, then they cancelled their accusation by leaving the scene.

So, apart from their day to day sins as we all are sinners, there is none righteous, no, not one (Ps. 14:1-3; 53:1-3; Eccl. 7:20 and Rom. 3:10); they committed two extra sins while they were accusing that woman.

Jesus knew all that beforehand, so he wanted to give them another chance for remorse and repentance. And from all the above, we see that Jesus talked a lot though He did not utter one word.

Now let us analyze where Jesus stands towards the woman.

When Jesus said to the accusers “he who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first”, He already knows that no one can claim that he is without sin. He also knows that He is the only one without sin (John 8:46) and consequently He is the only person who can stone her. But did He use His legal right to do so? And I say legal right for three reasons: First of all because the Law gives Him that right. Secondly because He is sinless and so, He is the only one who can punish her. Thirdly because He specifically came to this world to purchase us back from the devil with very precious price, His blood. So He already paid the price though He did not die yet but He came for this reason, how can He punish her?

So as you see, He did not come to condemn and punish. **NO**, listen to what the Holy Scripture says: **“For the Son of man has come to save that which was lost.”** (Mat. 18:11) and **“for the Son of man has come to seek and to save that which was lost”** (Luke 19:10). And again He says: **“You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one.”** (John 8:15) So as you see, He came specifically to save her, how can He condemn her?

And lastly the law says if there is no accuser, then there is no accusation and consequently there is no judgment.

Someone may say: “If it is so, then why did Jesus come? Anyone can do whatever he or she wishes and all is covered by the endless mercy of God. Such person I would like to remind him with what Paul said to the Church of Rome: **“Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and long suffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?”** (Rom. 2:4)

And I would like also to remind everybody that in His first coming, Jesus Christ came in humility, meekness, and mercy to reconcile and redeem; but in His second coming He will be mighty, powerful with no mercy for He will be judging the whole world (2<sup>nd</sup> Tim. 4:1).

Think seriously about that.