

## TBHTA

March 17, 2024

Question: “Why no mention of the man in the account of John 8:1-11?”

Answer: That is the account of the adulterous woman and if you have an adulterous woman you naturally will have an adulterous man. However, on the Mount of Olives early one morning we read that “Jesus came into the temple and the people were sitting around him teaching and the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery and having set her in the center of the court they said to him “teacher this woman has been caught in adultery in the very act.” Well if she was caught in the very act she was not alone but it seems that these men were only concerned to grab her or perhaps the fellow was too burly and too big, too scary for them to also lay hold of him. The law of Moses decreed that such should be put to death for their actions and they bring the woman to Jesus. But we read in verse six they were saying this not because they were desperately concerned about the law of Moses, they were as at other times seeking to discredit Jesus, they were seeking to embarrass Him, they were seeking to get Him in a corner and put forward an impossible answer where they could accuse Him should He go the one way or the other and they were thinking that there was only two options for Him to choose. They were saying these things testing Him so that they might have grounds for accusing Him. But Jesus did not answer them. He stoops down and begins to write on the ground. They press forward, they demand an answer of Jesus and He straightens up and He says “he who is without sin among you let him be the first to throw a stone at her.” And the account goes that there was a pause and starting with the oldest and right down to the youngest of those accusers they started filtering out quietly one by one and Jesus is left by Himself with the woman and He says “Did no man condemn you?” and she says “no one, Lord” and Jesus, He said “I do not condemn you either. Go. From now on sin no more.” Some think that Jesus said “go and do whatever you like.” That was not what He said. He says “neither do I condemn you. Go, sin no more.” The truth is that these individuals were seeking to trap Jesus and perhaps the whole thing was a setup. Perhaps the leaders knew the guy and that they had set this so that they would have someone to bring to Jesus and they said “look, you escape and we'll turn the blind eye.” That would seem to be exactly what is taking place there and why the man was not dragged in before Jesus as well.

Question: What is meant by “the ancient landmark” in Proverbs 22:28?

Answer: That proverb reads “Do not move the ancient boundary which your fathers have set.” Now the Proverbs is concerned more than with just simple surveying and with simple geography and map making of this world. The Proverbs are given that there might be principles implanted within the hearts of the Jews and that we, now Believers in Christ, might also be fed and strengthened by these words of wisdom. This proverb spoke of something that is decreed in Deuteronomy 19:14 and then also in Deuteronomy 27:17 when the children of Israel came into the promised land and the land was mapped out as to where each of the tribes were to go and where each of the clans were to go and the family assignments were made. There were markers that were put where each and every family had their plot of ground and it was a cursed thing, it was a detestable thing for someone to try to enlarge their property by inches or by devious means. This is spoken of also in Job

24:2 and Hosea 5:10 - it was a concern in the Old Testament economy and in the Old Testament world but what are we to make of this? Is this something that has no implication or it has no meaning for us? Not so. As with so many of the Proverbs there is an Earthly principle which also carries a Heavenly meaning to it. "Do not move the ancient boundary which your fathers have set." Here it is: there are standards for the children of God, there are standards which have been handed down to us about how we are to live. Our world is all about change and about rethinking everything that possibly can be rethought and here we have a word of wisdom from 3,000 or more years ago that we are to be ever so careful about those things which some might say "oh it doesn't matter anymore. Let's throw out that standard or that principle or that old truth" as though truth can grow old. Truth is truth and principle is principle. So here we have it: the Bible talks to us about boundaries, it talks to us about things which ought not to be moved and we do well, we do more than well to heed this word.