

THE ACCUSER

INTRODUCTION

John was driving home late one night when he picked up a hitchhiker. As they rode along, he began to be suspicious of his passenger. John checked to see if his wallet was safe in the pocket of his coat that was on the seat between them, but it wasn't there! So he slammed on the brakes, ordered the hitchhiker out, and said, "Hand over the wallet immediately!" The frightened hitchhiker handed over a billfold, and John drove off. When he arrived home, he started to tell his wife about the experience, but she interrupted him, saying, "Before I forget, John, do you know that you left your wallet at home this morning?"

I personally am quite accomplished at such false accusations. If I can't find my keys at home, I start demanding from everyone else, "what did you do with them?" only later to find the keys exactly where I left them.

This morning I want to spend some time examining the Bible's view on accusation and condemnation. We will look at:

- Religious people's stance on accusation and condemnation.
- Jesus stance on accusation and condemnation.
- Father God's stance on accusation and condemnation.
- The devil's stance on accusation and condemnation.
- Our own stance on accusation and condemnation.

MESSAGE

Before we go into the content of this message, we need to understand two words or principles:

1. **To accuse:** to bring an accusation against; bring before a judge or bring to court.
2. **To condemn:** after being accused, to be judged worthy of punishment; to sentence.

JESUS' STANCE VS. THE STANCE OF RELIGIOUS PEOPLE

John 8:1-11(NLT) Jesus returned to the Mount of Olives, 2 but early the next morning he was back again at the Temple. A crowd soon gathered, and he sat down and taught them. 3 As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd. 4 "Teacher," they said to Jesus, "this woman was caught in the act of adultery. 5 The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?" 6 They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. 7 They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, "All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first

stone!" 8 Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust. 9 When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. 10 Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, "Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?" 11 "No, Lord," she said. And Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more."

We know this incident well. The Pharisees and teachers of the law – the religious people were trying to trap Jesus. They wanted Him to contradict the Law of Moses.

- Why? So that they could accuse Jesus!

When they brought this woman caught in the act of adultery, they said to Jesus: "The Law of Moses says we should stone her, what do you say?"

- Jesus didn't reply immediately but when He finally did, He said, "all right"..."Ok, that's what the Law says, you are in your right to stone her".
- This woman was guilty of sin deserving stoning and Jesus didn't deny it!
- Then He said, "but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!"
- There is lots of speculation as to what Jesus wrote in the sand, but we don't even need to go there...
 - Romans 3:23 says: "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God".
 - Not one of those ACCUSERS could condemn that woman because they all, in their own right had not been punished for the sins that they themselves had committed!
 - They eventually all slipped away in shame.

Here's the first point. We can be religious and dogmatic. We can insist in certain situations that "the Bible says so", just like the Pharisees did, but that is lifeless Christianity, its accusatory and judgmental, and if we want to live that way, we bring ourselves under the law.

- ***No-one has the right to condemn when they themselves should be condemned!***

Let's have a look at Jesus' stance:

- Jesus Himself was blameless... if anyone had a right to throw the first stone according to the Law, it was Him!
- But He didn't.
- He said to the woman "Didn't **even one** of your accusers condemn you?"
- Jesus was never even part of the accusation! He knew she had sinned, it could not be denied.
- He said, "neither do I, go and sin no more".
 - "I don't accuse you".
 - "don't carry on sinning!"

Jesus stance on accusing and judging this woman caught in the act of sin was firstly not to accuse her and secondly to advise her to stop sinning.

We need to understand that although Jesus has the full right to accuse, and condemn us, He chooses not to. He is not "the Accuser".

Looking at ourselves we need to realise the same as the religious people did: If we choose to accuse someone of a sin, even if its an obvious sin, we have no right to condemn them! Why, because we are not without sin!

Jesus is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. If He treated this woman caught in the act that way, He will treat us the same!

FATHER GOD'S STANCE ON JUDGING AND ACCUSATION

Our sins are not without consequence, they had to be paid for **Romans 8:31-34** (NLT) What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? 32 Since He did not spare even His own Son but gave Him up for us all, won't He also give us everything else? 33 Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for His own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with Himself. 34 Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.

- God is determined not to accuse us!
- He was so determined not to condemn us that He gave His own Son to be condemned in our place.
- Instead of accusing us, He has chosen us as His own.
- No one dare accuse us! Because Jesus has already paid the price for our sins.
- Father God Himself has given us right standing with Himself.

Paul is astounded... he says "What shall we say about such wonderful things?"

Do you get it? Father God also doesn't accuse and condemn us. Instead, He gives us right standing with Himself. Jesus who Himself paid the price for our sins does not accuse or condemn us, in fact, He sits at the right hand of Father God and makes intercession for us!

Romans 8:1 makes this very clear: So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.

THE DEVIL'S STANCE AGAINST ACCUSATION AND CONDEMNATION

Revelation 12:10 (NLT) Then I heard a loud voice shouting across the heavens, "It has come at last— salvation and power and the Kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers and

sisters has been thrown down to earth— the one who accuses them before our God day and night.

- It's clear...the devil accuses the brethren before God.
- He accuses us continually – day and night.
- In Job, we read about the Accuser standing before God.
- In **Zechariah 3:1** (NLT) Then the angel showed me Jeshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord. The Accuser, Satan, was there at the angel's right hand, making accusations against Jeshua.

The devil is opposite to God in every respect. If he is the accuser, then Jesus simply can't be and neither should we be!

WHAT SHOULD THE CHRISTIAN'S STANCE TOWARD ACCUSATION AND CONDEMNATION BE?

Firstly, we should imitate Christ. That means, if He doesn't accuse and condemn us, then we should not accuse and condemn others. Jesus made this clear in His teachings:

Luke 6:37-42 (NLT) "Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven. 38 Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back." 39 Then Jesus gave the following illustration: "Can one blind person lead another? Won't they both fall into a ditch? 40 Students are not greater than their teacher. But the student who is fully trained will become like the teacher. 41 "And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own? 42 How can you think of saying, 'Friend, let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,' when you can't see past the log in your own eye? Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye.

In Matthew we read it like this:

Matthew 7:1-3 (NLT) "Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. 2 For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged. 3 "And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own.

Do you see it? - give and it shall be given is sandwiched between Jesus statement that we should not judge or condemn others and His instruction to deal with the plank in our own eye before trying to help someone with the speck in theirs. The context is clearly about us not judging and condemning others!

- We should not be accusers, nor condemners nor judges.

CONCLUSION

This morning we have discussed accusation and condemnation.

- Religious people can make legalistic accusations, but they can't condemn because they themselves are without sin.
- Jesus is the only one who is fully in His right to accuse and condemn us because He is perfect and He bore the consequence of our sin, but he makes intercession for us instead.
- Father God is so set against accusing and condemning us that He sent Jesus to bear the cost of our sin, leaving us reconciled to the Father.
- The devil accuses us all day and all night, but he can't condemn us because Jesus stands at the right hand of the Father interceding for us. The proof that all our sin has been paid for is right there.
- We can't afford to accuse, nor condemn others for two reasons.

1. We need to reflect the character of Christ, who does not accuse nor condemn us.

2. If we do start to accuse and condemn others, we take ourselves out from under the covering and protection of Christ, and place ourselves under another universal law... with the same measure that you give, it will be measured back to you!

Therefore, we can take 2 wonderful truths out of this message today:

- 1. *There is no condemnation for me because I am in Christ Jesus. No-one dare accuse me!***
- 2. *Because I am not accused and condemned, I choose not to accuse and condemn!***