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Dear Friends,

I have given my letter of encouragement to you this month, a title:-

The imaginary check list!!!

*And, I am sure we all have one; tucked away somewhere in a closet of our mind, where we hope no-one will ever discover it. It usually houses things like; all of our **secret thoughts**, and **past behaviours**. The things we have done that we don't really want to discuss with ourselves, least of all those we are closest to; our family and friends, and especially our significant other. So, we keep them tucked away in the **secret compartment of our mind**, and hope they remain **untouchable** and **safe** there. And, although we don't really care to discuss them with ourselves, we frequently **rehearse** them over and over in our mind, and **guilt**, of different shapes and sizes, is the usual consequence of that behaviour.*

*The things we so badly want to keep hidden, but that cause us so much stress, and guilt, and anxiety, is called **sin!!** And since we mostly have such a difficult time of even admitting that truth to ourselves, I want to share some truths of God's Word with you, which just may help you get a handle on where you might be at in life, right now. Firstly, I want to share three scriptures with you. (Amp.)*

Psa 139:2 You know my downsitting and my uprising; You understand my thought afar off.

Mat 9:4 But Jesus, knowing (seeing) their thoughts, said, Why do you think evil and harbor malice in your hearts?

Joh 2:24 But Jesus [for His part] did not trust Himself to them, **because He knew all [men];**

Joh 2:25 And He did not need anyone to bear witness concerning man **[needed no evidence from anyone about men], for He Himself knew what was in human nature. [He could read men's hearts.]**

Having read those three scriptures, do you still think **your secret thoughts, words or deeds are still secret???** The very reason I wanted to write you about this topic this month, is because I was reading John 8:1-20 the other day, and I was challenged by some of the things I read in this passage. I will share some of this story with you.

Joh 8:1 **BUT JESUS** went to the Mount of Olives.

Joh 8:2 Early in the morning (at dawn), He came back into the temple [court], and the people came to Him in crowds. He sat down and was teaching them,

Joh 8:3 When the scribes and Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery. They made her stand in the middle of the court and put the case before Him.

Joh 8:4 Teacher, they said, This woman has been caught in the very act of adultery.

Joh 8:5 Now Moses in the Law commanded us that such [women--offenders] shall be stoned to death. **But what do You say [to do with her--what is Your sentence]? [Deut. 22:22-24.]**

Joh 8:6 This they said to try (test) Him, hoping they might find a charge on which to accuse Him. **But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger.**

Joh 8:7 However, **when they persisted with their question, He raised Himself up and said, Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.**

Joh 8:8 **Then He bent down and went on writing on the ground with His finger.**

Joh 8:9 **They listened to Him, and then they began going out, conscience-stricken, one by one, from the oldest down to the last one of them, till Jesus was left alone, with the woman standing there before Him in the center of the court.**

Joh 8:10 When Jesus raised Himself up, He said to her, Woman, where are your accusers? **Has no man condemned you?**

Joh 8:11 She answered, **No one, Lord! And Jesus said, I do not condemn you either. Go on your way and from now on sin no more.**

Joh 8:12 Once more Jesus addressed the crowd. He said, I am the Light of the world. He who follows Me will not be walking in the dark, but will have the Light which is Life.

This woman was in a situation, which is not unlike any situation that sits tucked away in **that secret closet of our mind**. The accusation thrown at her was **adultery**, but for us it could be: - **adultery, theft, lying, murder, rape**, and the list goes on and on; be it just or unjust, right or wrong!!!

I found the **Lord's response** to those Pharisees rather interesting, and there **behaviour to follow**, even more interesting. Once they had popped the question... "But what do You say to do with her—what is Your sentence"? ... "**Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger**". It goes on to say; "However, when they **persisted**

*with their question, He raised Himself up and said, **Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her. Then He bent down and went on writing on the ground with His finger**".* Now I think you, like me, would be somewhat taken aback if **we** had questioned Jesus, and he **responded to us**, by writing on the ground with His finger. However, as I thought about this and read on, I discovered in verse 9... **"They listened to Him, and then began going out, conscience-stricken, one by one, from oldest to the last one of them, till Jesus was left alone, with the woman..."** Now, I don't know about you, but I **marvelled at their ability to hear the ground talk**, because Jesus wasn't saying anything; **He was writing with His finger on the ground.**

At about this point, I started to question **just what He was writing on the ground.** It must have been something very relevant. There is no example anywhere in the Bible where Jesus wasted Words. **Everything He said was relevant!** So, the very fact that this scripture says, they **listened to Him**, and all left accordingly, conscience-stricken, and in single file, made me think that, what He was writing on the ground, may have been the **check list**, they each had tried so hard to **keep hidden**, in that **secret compartment of their minds?** Why else would they all have left, after bringing her there to Jesus to be stoned to death, in the first instance? The only thing that makes perfect sense to me is, that **He wrote their personal check lists** on the ground, and as they **each read their names and actions**, their **consciences** passed judgement on each one personally; which **disqualified** them, each one, from casting that first stone.

Back in those first three scriptures it says; that the **Lord knew their thoughts, and could read what was in men's hearts.** I believe those Pharisees got a hands on lesson that day; to not mess with our Lord; and we too, can learn a great lesson here.

Joh 8:10 When Jesus raised Himself up, He said to her, Woman, where are your accusers? **Has no man condemned you?**

Joh 8:11 She answered, **No one, Lord! And Jesus said, I do not condemn you either. Go on your way and from now on sin no more.**

That should make you shout about there!! **No condemnation!!** Wow!! Jesus didn't even condemn the Pharisees. **They condemned themselves. Their consciences did that for them.** Praise the Lord!!! And now this woman is free to return to her home, and family, and resume her daily life, and make the necessary adjustments, to meet the **"sin no more,"** criteria; the **only specific** the Lord gave. So as I conclude this letter to you, I want for you to think back to where we started, **and to know that there is nothing secret, that our Lord is not aware of** and, plenty of scripture examples to study, on that same topic. However, as important as it is to know that, **I believe it is even more important to know that Jesus loves you, so much that He died for you, so YOU wouldn't have to be condemned.** And so I leave you with this scripture from Romans, again from the Amplified Bible:-

*Rom 8:1 **THEREFORE, [there is] now no condemnation (no adjudging guilty of wrong) for those who are in Christ Jesus, who live [and] walk not after the dictates of the flesh, but after the dictates of the Spirit. [John 3:18.]***

Is that not something to shout about? Have a blessed month.

Till next month

From my house to yours

Blessings of the abundant kind!

Leila Nord.

