



Little Lambs Inc.

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Dear Little Lambs,

This month's newsletter devotion comes from the Gospel of John, Chapter 8. For two thousand years, this scripture has been alternately used and abused by common folk like you and me, usually to justify our own misbehavior. But let's not get ahead of ourselves.

As Chapter 8 opens, Jesus is still in Jerusalem as the "feast of tabernacles" is winding down. Jesus had passed the night on the outskirts of the city at the Mount of Olives, perhaps at the home of a friend for a little well-earned R & R.

However, by early the next morning He was already back in the city, teaching in the temple. And "all the people came unto Him." (John 8:2), no doubt hoping to hear just one more powerful message before heading home. And they certainly heard a jim-dandy message, albeit a one liner. Once again the scribes and Pharisees were there trying to pick a fight with Jesus to discredit Him. One day they brought in a woman accused of adultery. According to the Mosaic law, a woman guilty of adultery must be stoned to death. In fact, a strict reading mandated that the witnesses themselves must be the first stone-throwers (Deu. 17:7). And the Roman magistrates would look the other way to allow the sentence to be enforced without the customary legal formalities.

The tangle was evident. If Jesus confirmed the law of Moses and agreed to the woman's sentence of death by stoning, the Pharisees could have called Him an impostor. After all, was this not the "supposed Messiah, sent by God" to unravel the Mosaic web? On the other hand, if Jesus acquitted the woman, He would have been accused of having come to destroy the law, rather than fulfill it (Matthew 5:17).

Of course, on this side of John's Gospel, we know that the Pharisees' pitiful attempt to put Jesus in a box would fail miserably. The Pharisees-acting as prosecutor, judge and jury- presented the woman herself as "Exhibit A". The proof of her guilt was incontestable. She was *taken in the very act* (John 8:4). Guilty as charged. Case closed. Or so they thought...

But then the Pharisees and their lawyer cohorts made a very big mistake of legal strategy. In a courtroom setting, an attorney should never ask a question to which he does not already know the answer. Even a rank greenhorn would know that. But inexplicably, the Pharisees legal team did just that - they asked the King of Kings and Lord of Lords: "**What sayest thou?**" (John 8:5). A really dumb move on their part.

Jesus' two-fold response to the Pharisees' question "What sayest thou?" is legendary. The first part of His response was just silence. Deafening silence! Jesus simply stooped down and with His finger wrote something in the dust of the ground. No doubt Bible scholars down through the ages have vigorously debated what Jesus wrote. But we do not know. However, the second part of Jesus' response was pure genius and it set the stage for one of the most profound verses of Scripture in all of Christendom.

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Continued from page 1 Jesus' words cut to the hearts of the callous Pharisees, presupposing of course that they even had hearts. Jesus said:

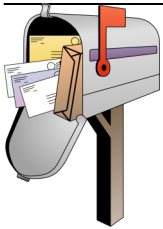
"He that is without sin among you, let him be first to cast a stone at her." John 8:7

We all know the outcome. With this single charge, Jesus "cleared the room." Beginning with the older, more experienced sinners, the Pharisees slinked out, one by one, convicted by their own conscience. Perhaps they had had previous contact with this same woman....

Finally, the woman was left there alone with Jesus, trembling, expecting condemnation, dreading the penalty. But no! God's amazing grace overshadowed her, and Jesus forgave her! And He breathed new life into her soul as He whispered "...go and sin no more" (John 8:11).

There are many lessons to be learned from this familiar passage, but let's keep it simple. When you find fault with someone else, before heading out to the rock pile, take a long look in your own mirror. That way, you won't have to gather as many stones. Blessings to all,

Mike Rider, Volunteer



I want to thank you very much for the stamped envelope. It was a great blessing in this dark place. When you are behind the wall people forget your existence or things are going so fast they forget about the important things in life. But for me I am glad to come to prison for six years. In June, three more years to go. But I realize I could be in hell for eternity. So I am excited to be a light for the glorious Kingdom of God. My job is to go and make disciples for Christ. In doing so, the Lord blesses my gift as a baseball player. I've been practicing first and second base and know he is letting me shine in the outfield. Three year baseball tournament is coming up. My nickname is "TURBO", 50 years old, faster than all 800 inmates young or old. Wow! What a gracious Father. I ran 40 yards in 4.5 seconds before the world. Now, 4.0 was an unimaginable gift. Can't wait to get out and play for the Men of Valor team and teach young players how to play and let them know my testimony. I have met so many ministries since I have been here and you are 1 of 60. I Love God, Love Little Lambs of Florida!

Your friend TURBO. Michael

Emmanuel here. The purpose of my letter to you is to be able to participate in your Bible Correspondence Course you might have available. Why not? Good question... that will be because for 20 years straight I have been so far away from the one who is my "Rock of Salvation." I have done so many terrible and selfish things to family, friends, and others, that I wish I could take it all back. But I found something intriguing while reading Isaiah. Cause I don't think He who knows all things wants us to sit around and be thinking about what we could have done right or wrong. I'll get back to those two words in seconds. But Isaiah was saying the opposite. For he says, "Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you saying, 'This is the way. Walk in it'.." So despite all which I have done wrong, along with letting people down, especially my Dad for which I am truly and deeply sorry, Pops. But I think it was meant to happen to me. Cause first, nothing is new to the Most High. Second, I won't change it for a single thing. I wouldn't have met Him if I hadn't taken this course, would I? Now back to those two words: Right and Wrong. These words are intriguing to me also. Because human standards, that's what we focus on, trying to do the right thing. Then we lose our focus and things go south. But from God's point of view, there isn't right or wrong because they both hold us down. In His sight there is only "what is and what isn't"... like when Moses died. The Lord said to Joshua, "My servant Moses is dead. Now then you and all these people get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land" (paraphrased).... Now then, 'into the land' is **what is**. Ever since I grabbed hold of His Word, it has been a lamp for my feet and a light on my path... Even when my spirit grows faint withing me it is You who watches over my way... And I've been always curious on what is. So brethren, I plea with you to help me grow and mature more in Christ and to understand His will. I don't just listen to the Word. I also do what it says. Just like James encourages us to do. Though I'm in a cell, I will still share and spread the Good News about Jesus to inmates around me and even beyond this wall.. For I will stand firm. And let nothing move me. For I know when we give ourselves full to the work of the Lord, our labor in Him will not be in vain. For it is for freedom that Christ has set us free.. So let us stand firm in His will. Emmanuel. *Usually we get a simple request for bible studies, but sometimes we get someone who is really devoted to knowing and growing more in the Lord. "Feed my lambs" He said. Amen.*

Greetings! I hope this letter finds you in good health and good spirits. My name is Justin and I'm a recent convert who is thirsty for as much Christian contact and bible studies as humanly possible:) I was an atheist for over 25 years when one day, while cutting the grass, a strange presence seemed to settle into my heart that I tried to explain with human logic and reasoning. After being unable to discern friend from foe for many months, and being witness to supernatural happenings in and all around me, I decided to open up a Bible in search of the truth. It was then that God's word came completely alive to me and I finally knew that the presence in my life was the Holy Spirit! I recently finished your book. Our stories are strikingly similar. I'm in the county jail right now waiting to go upstate for my 4th time. Not too many people can shamefully say they're 4 time losers. I'm 47 years old, and have 24 years in prison. This will be my first time going up with a new-found faith. God's been blessing me this entire time. Instead of the usual bank robbery, this time I'm going up for my 2nd DUI and a high speed police chase. It was after the chase that I made the decision to trust Jesus and for the past 6 months it's been miracle after wonder. I want to write my story as well, or tell it to somebody who may have that experience or God-given gift. I don't tell my story often, but I tend to gravitate to guys who could benefit from my testimony. I love to read stuff from the 19th century. I'm reading Pilgrim's Progress right now from the 1650s. I love Moody, Spurgeon, Sproul. I would appreciate any bibles, concordance, bible studies or Christian literature :) Your friend, Justin PA

Note on the bottom of a graduates lesson:

Hey Guys: I've enjoyed our journey throughout the Bible with you all. I've learned a lot and retained so many scriptures. It's sad to say goodbye but I praise God for people like y'all who spend their time /money to bring God's word into prison where it is much needed!!! Please keep me and my family in prayer as I do your also. Have a Merry Christmas and may God bless you all. Marty,Tx

This is from George which came in lesson 2-2. We always include a Christmas card in the lessons beginning in November until Christmas. For some, it will be the only card or thought they will get. But George wanted to give us something too so he included this with his lesson. With his own emphasis.

Before you open this up, this is dedicated to you all. It is a word-for-word Old School Christmas Carol to Little Lamb Ministries, so Merry Christmas with the love of our Savior Jesus Christ, George

DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR Dedicated to Little Lamb Ministries

Said the night wind to the Little Lamb, do you see what I see, way up in the sky, Little Lamb

Do you see what I see, A star, a star, dancing in the night, with a tail as big as a kite, with a tail as big as a kite

Said the Little Lamb to the shepherd boy, Do you hear what I hear

A song, a song high above the trees, with a voice as big as the sea, with a voice as big as the sea

Said the Shepherd Boy to the mighty king, do you know what I know, in your palace warm mighty king

Do you know what I know.

A Child, a Child shivers in the cold, let us bring him silver and gold, let us bring him silver and gold

Said the king to the people everywhere, Listen to what I say pray for peace people everywhere

Listen to what I say

The Child, the Child sleeping in the night, He will bring us goodness and light, He will bring us goodness and light

Do you hear what I hear, Little Lamb

Dear Brother and Sister Sala, I want to thank you both for the love I feel for others now because of the love you have shared with me. When I got this study in the mail and found the "knee pads" (a graphic used for praying on your knees) you had sent me, you don't know how happy I was. I really did need them. And they have been used. I also want to thank you for the prayers you do send up for me. I know someone has because there is a very thick hedge of protection around me. I have also been receiving blessings I know I don't deserve, but accept them very humbly and graciously.

I know I don't have to ask, but please keep praying for me. For the last three years I have qualified for a seminary program that the prison allows us to take. They only choose 40 men every year out of many. This is a college level seminary program and after I graduate I will be able to minister the word of God to very needy people. Know this, if I am accepted I will continue this bible study but perhaps just not as often because of academic studies. Thank you for your love and prayers. Brother Richard, Tx.

Dear Partners,

Today begins the New Year! Frankly, I am glad to see 2023 end. In 2023, we battled our biggest enemy and yet our biggest friend, the mail system! The mail system coupled with fentanyl, an illicit drug 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 stronger than morphine, combined to make it difficult to get bible studies into prisons. Fentanyl has had a banner year with some states decriminalizing all drug use or simply not prosecuting it. So drugs run rampant, even through the mail! From 1999 to 2021, nearly 288,000 Americans died from overdose containing fentanyl. Worse yet, 700,000 overdose deaths in the US since 2000. Of course, that makes the biggest problem for security in prisons-mail contraband. Our wonderful staff has dealt with major states like Florida and Texas, with our largest student populations along with California, using different systems for bible studies. In Texas, we have sent some lessons and bibles 4 times before the state settled on one new method and we're back to semi-normal. Personally, I don't think we will ever be back to normal, at least not till Jesus comes for us!

But another triumph is being able, thanks to your generosity, to include a stamped envelope in each lesson. We have also began a larger distribution of John's book into prisons by International Prison Ministry from California.

Other changes made, I am completely moved into the upper floor of the ministry building and ready to market my home. This is so much easier for me and my back is so much better.

We do have a need though. One of our beloved Spanish graders, Dr. Ed, went home to be with the Lord this past year. He was a wonderful grader and great encourager for inmates! This opens up a need for a Spanish grader. Contact us if that is you!

Regardless, our volunteers have printed and processed and graded over 3,000 lessons this year with 67 of those graduates. Our sincerest thanks to all of these hard working saints!



We want to welcome Chris Malave to our staff of volunteers and missionaries. Chris will be joining us this week and will be in the office on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of each week and when he begins as a prison volunteer. Chris is here with his mother, Mary Malave from Orlando, FL.

Chris says, "I was born in the Bronx, Ny, in 1974. My mom was 15 years old when she had me. Growing up and becoming a man, I always wondered what my purpose was here on earth. I was always a people person and pretty much got along with everyone.

Recently, I faithfully started a relationship with the Lord. It made a difference because I gave my vessel, all of me to the Lord to do what ever He pleased with me.

In the past, I always thought I had everything figured out. Was I wrong! I joined the Marine Corps after high school. Here I was supposed to gain honor, courage, and commitment. I did attain these things, but I also adopted a drinking problem. So powerful I could not stop. I got tired and made a phone call that changed my life. 2nd Chance Ministry is a drug and alcohol treatment facility that gave me the strength to break the chains of bondage addiction had on me. Since graduating the program, I have become staff with the ministry and all I've learned I'm able to help others be free as well. Thank God every chance you get."

We had a chance to meet with the Ray and Mary Malave, Chris's parents when they invited the program to their home for a Christmas party. It was a delightful time. For some, it was the first time being in a

'normal family' celebration and really enjoyed themselves. We want to thank them for that delightful evening.

I did get a chance to visit my daughter and son and their families for the holidays in Kansas and see a little snow! It was really cold. But really lovely with all the grandchildren. Thank you for another great year!

Your servant,
Eileen Sala

