Finger Writing

John 8: I but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. 2 At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. 3 The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group 4 and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery.

John 8: 5 In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" 6 They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. 7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her."

John 8: 8 Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

9 At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. 10 Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

John 8: II "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

Two plausible options for what Jesus wrote on the ground:

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(1). Their names.



Jeremiah 17: 13 Lord, you are the hope of Israel; all who forsake you will be put to shame. Those who turn away from you will be written in the dust

because they have forsaken the Lord, the spring of living water.

Two plausible options for what Jesus wrote on the ground:

(2). The 10 Commandments.

Jeremiah 22: 29 O land, land, land, hear the word of the Lord!

John deliberately decided to not tell us what Jesus wrote.

Two clues:



Two clues:

(1). John focuses on Jesus' writing-not what he wrote.

Two clues:

(2). Jesus stooped to write on the ground twice.

Who else in scripture wrote on a hard surface twice with their finger?

Exodus 31: I When the Lord finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, he gave him the two tablets of the covenant law, the tablets of stone inscribed by the finger of God.

When God's Law is empowered by humanity the result is condemnation and death.

Exodus 32: 28 The Levites did as Moses commanded, and that day about three thousand of the people died.

They didn't just bring a woman caught in adultery.

They brought the Law and an expectation of judgment.

When God's Law is empowered by God the result is grace and life.

Exodus 32: 28 The Levites did as Moses commanded, and that day about three thousand of the people died.

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Acts 2: 41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

2 Corinthians 3: 6 The letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

John 8: 10 Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"II "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

II "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more." (ESV)

Where else in scripture do we see God writing a new law empowered by forgiveness with our "sins no more"?

Jeremiah 31: 31 "The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand

Jeremiah 31: to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the Lord. 33 "This is the covenant I will make with the people ofIsrael after that time," declares the Lord. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts.

Jeremiah 31: I will be their God, and they will be my people. 34 No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the Lord. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

The new covenant in Christ is born of brokenness.

The power of the new covenant is to heal and restore that which is broken.

Here I stand, I can do no other, so help me God. Amen.

-Martin Luther

The work of salvation: bring your brokenness to Jesus and stand as he does all the work.

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