

Introduction: A few weeks ago, we studied the story of the woman caught in adultery (**John 8:1-11**). The Pharisees tried to trap Jesus into granting approval for the stoning of the woman caught in this sinful act. Jesus chooses not to condemn her to death. He told her to go and sin no more. He shows the compassion of God toward the sinner while discouraging the sin. What do we know about stoning? We know that it was a method of discipline that required community participation (**Deuteronomy 17:2-7**). Let's study together...

Discussion:

## I. Death By Stoning

- Touching Mount Sinai (**Exodus 19:13**)
- Animals that gore someone (**Exodus 21:28**)
- Bestiality (**Exodus 22:19**)
- Homosexuality (**Leviticus 20:13**)
- Necromancy or wizardry (**Leviticus 20:27**)
- Blasphemy or cursing God (**Leviticus 24:10-16**)
- Breaking the Sabbath (**Numbers 15:32-36**)
- Polytheism (**Deuteronomy 13:7-11**)
- Seducing others to idolatry (**Deuteronomy 13:7-12**)
- Engaging in idolatry (**Deuteronomy 17:2-7**)
- Lying about virginity (**Deuteronomy 22:13-21**)
- Rebellion against parents (**Deuteronomy 21:18-21**)
- Extramarital sex (**Deuteronomy 22:23-24**)
- Rape (**Deuteronomy 22:25-27**)

## II. Sins Deserving of Death

God alone is the Judge of humanity (**Matthew 7:1-5, 12:26-37, Luke 6:37-42, Romans 2:1-3, 12:16-18, 14:1-13, II Corinthians 5:10, II Timothy 4:8, James 4:11-12, Hebrews 9:27, Jude 9**), but if you *were* able to judge someone (using the Scriptures as your guide) what stone would you use? Circle or underline your decision.

• <b>ADULTERY</b>	No Stone	Small Stone	Medium Stone	Large Stone
• <b>COVETOUSNESS</b>	No Stone	Small Stone	Medium Stone	Large Stone
• <b>DRUNKENNESS</b>	No Stone	Small Stone	Medium Stone	Large Stone
• <b>EXTORTION</b>	No Stone	Small Stone	Medium Stone	Large Stone
• <b>FORNICATION</b>	No Stone	Small Stone	Medium Stone	Large Stone
• <b>HOMOSEXUALITY</b>	No Stone	Small Stone	Medium Stone	Large Stone
• <b>HOSTILITY</b>	No Stone	Small Stone	Medium Stone	Large Stone
• <b>IDOLATRY</b>	No Stone	Small Stone	Medium Stone	Large Stone
• <b>UNBELIEVERS</b>	No Stone	Small Stone	Medium Stone	Large Stone
• <b>UNRIGHTEOUS LIVING</b>	No Stone	Small Stone	Medium Stone	Large Stone
• <b>SODOMY</b>	No Stone	Small Stone	Medium Stone	Large Stone
• <b>STEALING</b>	No Stone	Small Stone	Medium Stone	Large Stone

Conclusion: This is a long list but not even a comprehensive list. If you were the judge, would you cast the stone (**Deuteronomy 17:2-7**)? What kind of a stone would you use? What if the person offended you, hurt you or injured someone you love? How does the Bible tell us to react (**Romans 12:19**)? Paul dealt with these kinds of issues frequently (**I Corinthians 6:9-11**). We can learn two things from this lesson: 1) Stoning is a horrible way to die, but it was necessary (**Deuteronomy 17:7, Romans 6:23**) and 2) God loves giving second chances (**Jonah 3-4**). What if we choose grace, mercy, and forgiveness? In that way... we are most like our Heavenly Father, reflecting the image of Jesus, and bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit!