

# An Adulterous Woman's Story

Based on John 8:3-11.

It's not surprising that Jesus would care for women trapped by their circumstances. All of us feel compassion toward such people. But Jesus also cared for women who brought their shame upon themselves through bad lifestyle choices. The following story tells about this kind of woman.

One day, the Jewish religious teachers and temple leaders brought a woman to Jesus. They made her stand in front of Jesus and the crowd. They said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In our law, Moses commands that such a woman be killed by stoning. Now, what do you say?" They were using this question to trap Jesus so that they would have something with which to accuse him.

Jesus just stooped down and began to write in the dirt with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he stood up and said to them, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." Again, he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

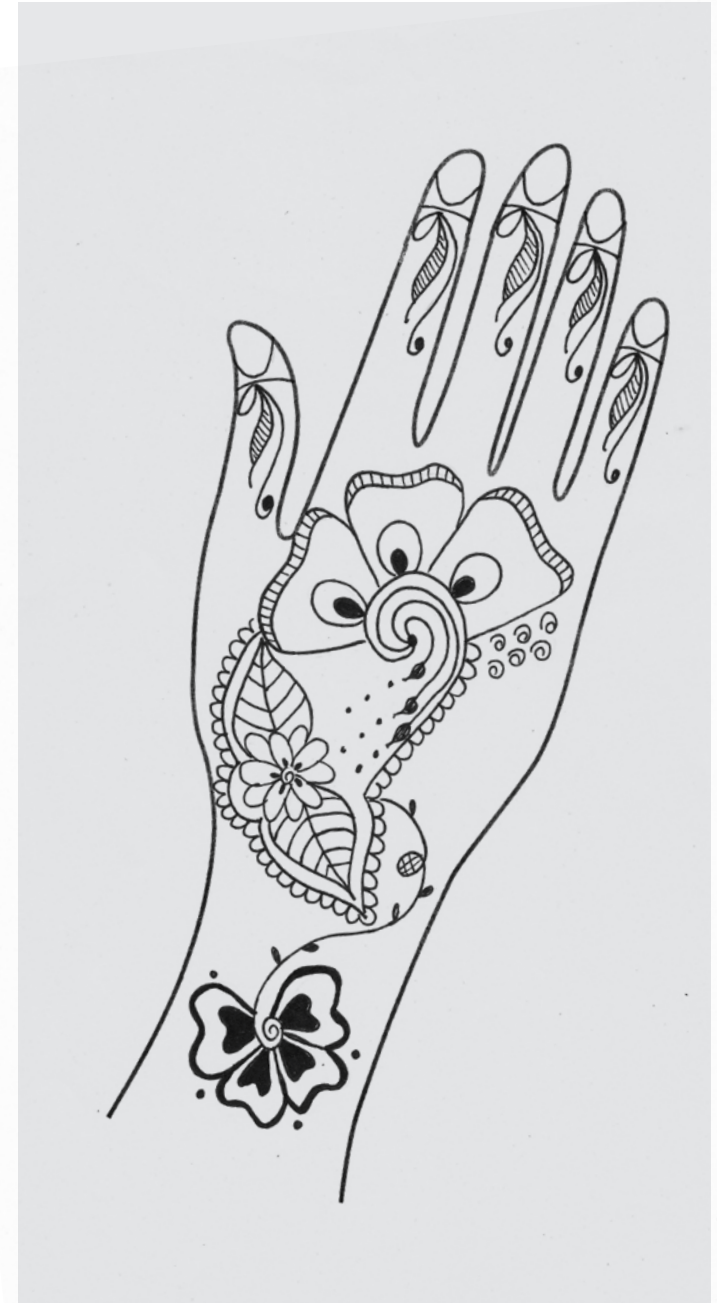
When they heard this, they began to go away one at a time. The older ones went first. Finally, only Jesus remained, along with the woman who was still standing near him. He straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

She answered, "No one, sir."

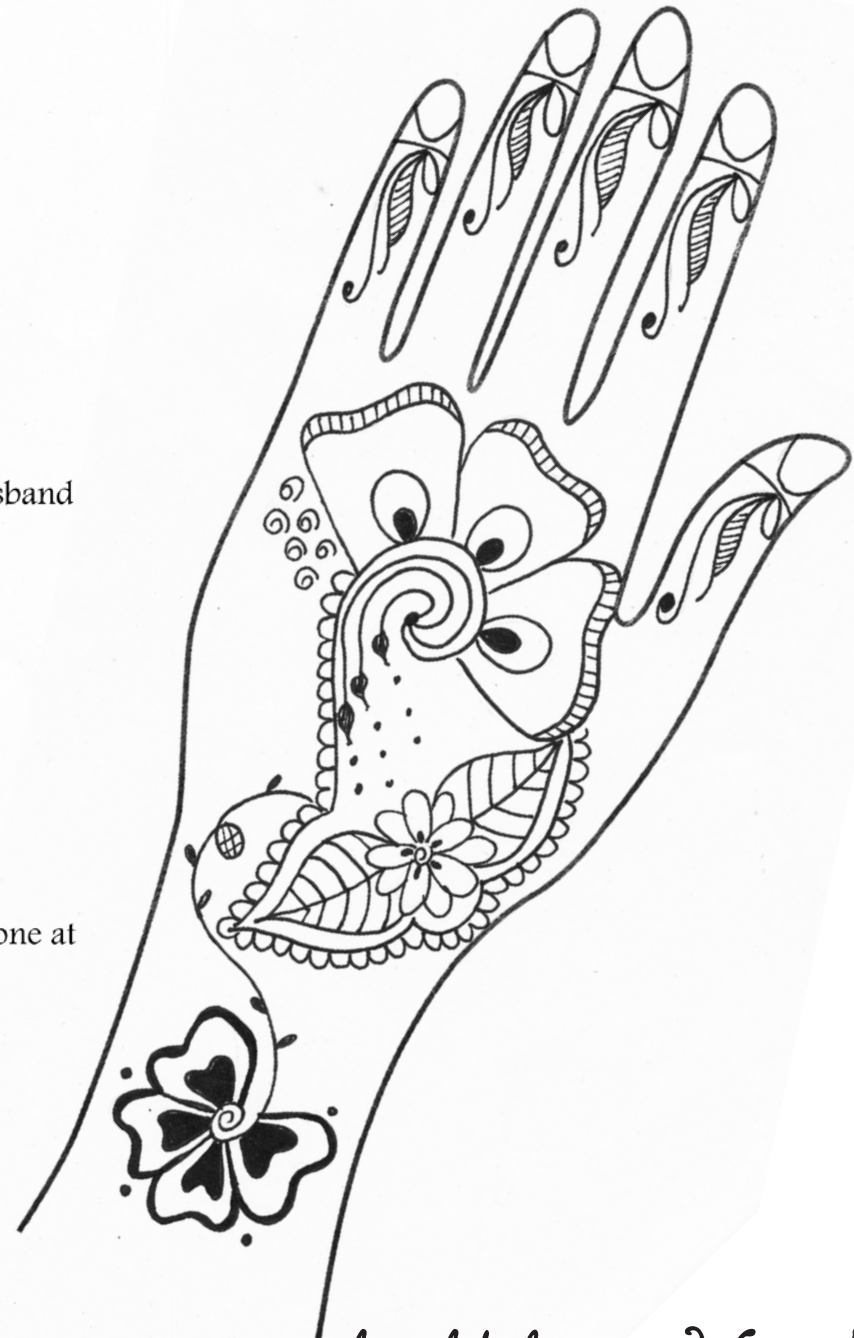
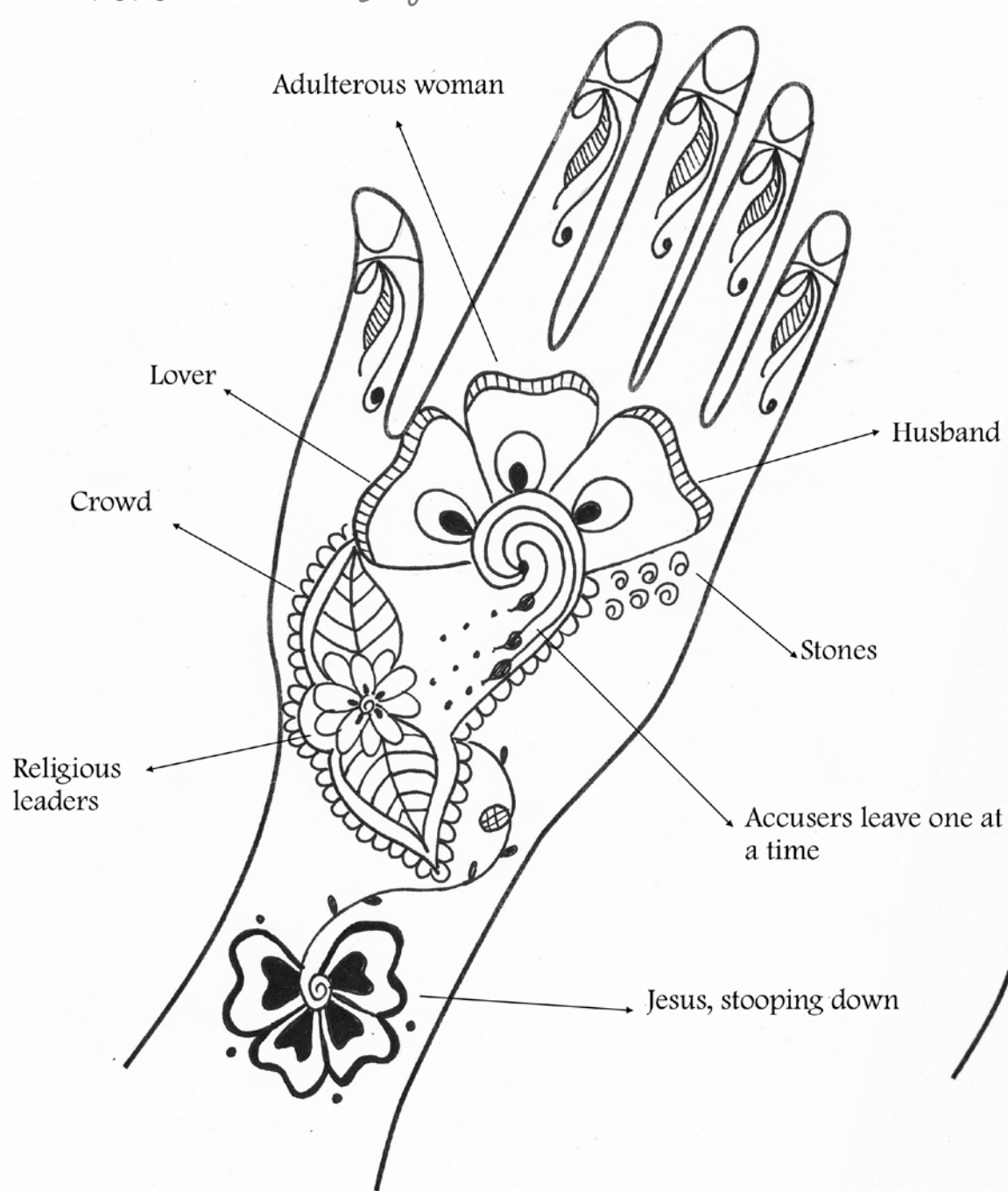
"Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

Jesus never said that the woman didn't bring shame on herself and her family. All of us are shameful. In fact, the Scriptures say, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). But Jesus didn't condemn her. Knowing that He Himself would soon pay the penalty for her sinful life, He covered her shame and forgave her.

***"Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame."*** Psalm 34:5



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