

# John 8:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

## Analysis

---

Convicted by conscience, the accusers leave one by one, oldest first - perhaps those with longest lives had most accumulated guilt. Their departure proves Jesus' point: none are sinless, none qualified to execute judgment. Only the woman and Jesus remain - the only sinless One, the only qualified Judge, alone with the guilty. This sets up grace's triumph.

## Historical Context

---

The elders leaving first may reflect greater self-awareness that comes with age, or greater sense of accumulated guilt. The departure of all accusers leaves Jesus as sole qualified judge.

## Related Passages

---

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

---

1. What does conscience conviction accomplish that mere argument cannot?
2. How does recognizing your own sin increase compassion for others?
3. Why is Jesus the only qualified judge of humanity?

## Interlinear Text

---

οἱ δὲ ἀκούσαντες καὶ ὑπὸ τῆς συνειδήσεως  
G3588 And they which heard and by G3588 their own conscience  
G1161 G191 G2532 G5259 G4893

ἐλεγχόμενοι, ἐξήρχοντο εἰς καθ' εἰς ἀρξάμενοι ἀπὸ τῶν  
being convicted went out G1520 G2596 G1520 beginning at G3588  
G1651 G1831 G756 G575

πρεσβυτέρων ἔως τῶν ἐσχάτων καὶ κατελείφθη μόνος  
the eldest even unto G3588 the last and was left alone  
G4245 G2193 G2078 G2532 G2641 G3441

οἱ Ἰησοῦς, καὶ ἡ γυνὴ ἐν μέσῳ ἐστῶσα  
G3588 Jesus and G3588 the woman in the midst standing  
G2424 G2532 G1135 G1722 G3319 G2476

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Ecclesiastes 7:22** (Parallel theme): For oftentimes also thine own heart knoweth that thou thyself likewise hast cursed others.

**Romans 2:15** (Parallel theme): Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;

**1 John 3:20** (Parallel theme): For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.

**Romans 2:22** (Parallel theme): Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege?

**John 8:10** (References Jesus): When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?

**Psalms 50:21** (Parallel theme): These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself: but I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes.

**Psalms 71:13** (Parallel theme): Let them be confounded and consumed that are adversaries to my soul; let them be covered with reproach and dishonour that seek my hurt.

**Psalms 40:14** (Parallel theme): Let them be ashamed and confounded together that seek after my soul to destroy it; let them be driven backward and put to shame that wish me evil.

**Job 20:5** (Parallel theme): That the triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite but for a moment?

**Job 20:27** (Parallel theme): The heaven shall reveal his iniquity; and the earth shall rise up against him.