

# 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

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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

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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

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

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

## Study Questions

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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

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

ὁ 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

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**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.