

# But We Have An Advocate

Sermon Title: **But We Have An Advocate**

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Speaker: **Elisha Bronner**

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Elisha Bronner: The Holy Spirit is working on the inside of us. The Holy Spirit is conforming us to be like Him.

Female: You are listening to BrothersoftheWord.com. This is the Sermon titled, "But We Have An Advocate," by Elisha Bronner. This Sermon is number 6552.

(Music Playing)

Female: And now for "But We Have An Advocate."

Elisha Bronner: Thank you for joining Brothers of the Word because, brother and sister, you need the Word. So, over the past couple of weeks, the Lord has really been showing me and speaking to me about my voice and the fact that He's given me a voice and He's given it to me to use for Him because it is from Him and it is a gift. And so, it's really something that I found myself struggling with, and I feel like a lot of us struggle with the fact that we have a voice. I mean, it's not something that we should hide or keep for other people, but we should use it to share for Him and for His glory, and our words are powerful and our words are important, but our words should come from His word. And so, that has been my encouragement coming for today just to bring forth the Word, not holding back knowing that my words are important because they are from the Lord and because the Lord has given me this voice, and He's really giving me this opportunity.

So, I just want to encourage you all. Use your voices. Use your circle of encouragement, your circle of influence and use that to point people back to Christ because He has given it to us. So, we're going to start off by diving into His word, and we're going to start off with John, Chapter 8. And I'm going to just start from the beginning, and it says, "At dawn, He went to the temple complex again and all the people were coming to Him. He sat down and began to teach them. Then, the Scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery, making her stand in the center. "Teacher," they said to him. "This woman was caught in the act of committing adultery and the law of Moses commanded us to stone such women. So, what do you say?" They ask this to trap him in order that they might have evidence to accuse Him. Jesus stooped down and started writing on the ground with His finger. When they persisted in questioning Him, He stood up and said to them, "The one without sin among you should be the first to throw the stone at her," and then He stooped down again and continued writing on

the ground. When they heard this, they left one by one starting with the older men. Only Jesus was left with the woman in the center. When Jesus stood up, He said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, Lord," she answered. "Neither do I condemn you," said Jesus. "Go and from now on, do not sin anymore."

So, the title of my message today is "But We Have An Advocate." So, in this passage I just read, we have the Scribes and the Pharisees. These are the people who know the law, who are very well trained in the law, who love the law. They brought this woman, who they found in the act of committing adultery, and they brought her to Jesus, and they expected him to participate in shaming her, to participate in condemning her because that's what they were already doing by bringing her there in the first place. But, what happens is that Jesus flips it on them. And so, instead of Jesus acting in the way that they expected Him to, He acts in the way that Jesus acts, which is not the way that humans act. So, while they expected Him to participate in the shame and the condemnation, what He really did was bring freedom and that's what the enemy does to us today. He tries to trick us into thinking that we can't come to Jesus with our sin because we're going to experience condemnation. We are going to experience shame. But, instead of giving this woman shame and condemnation, instead of condemning her, Jesus offered her forgiveness, freedom, and redemption.

And so, the Pharisees, if they wanted her to be shamed, which they did, they should have never brought her to Christ because what they expected Jesus to shame her, what He really did was free her. And so, if they wanted her to remain in shame, they should have just kept her because they were already shaming her. They were already condemning her.

So, when we come to Christ no matter who we are and what we've done or what sin we just committed or we're in the current act of committing, when we come to Christ, we don't experience condemnation or shame, but we experience freedom. We experience forgiveness. We experience redemption and restoration and that's what this woman experience. But because the enemy knows that, he tries to keep us away from Christ. He convinces us that we shouldn't come to Jesus because they were going to experience shame. So, don't go to Christ because you're going to be shamed. So, just stay and keep it hidden and keep it

in the dark and don't bring it up to the light or else you're going to experience shame,--

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But he does that to keep us in shame. He does that to keep us feeling condemned because he knows that when we do bring it to Christ, when we do confess our sins to the Lord that we are going to experience freedom because we have an advocate and his name is Jesus.

So, while Jesus does not take the side of sin, he does take the side of sinners. In Mark, Chapter 2, Verses 16 and 17, and again in Luke, it says that when the Scribes and the Pharisees saw that Jesus was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they asked His disciples. "Why does He eat with tax collectors and with sinners?" When Jesus heard this, He told them, "Those who are well, don't need a doctor, but the sick do need one. I didn't come to call the righteous but to call the sinners." So, Jesus is telling the Pharisees this because the Pharisees think that they're better than everyone else. But Jesus tells them, "No, like if you think you're good without me, then I'm going to come in. I'm going to save the sinner."

And so, that is why us in our sin, we have the ability to come to Christ because we are the ones that He came for. So, the Pharisees brought the woman to Jesus expecting Jesus to condemn her and to shame her, but He said, "Whoever is without sin may cast the first stone." So, Jesus let them know in saying that that they are so busy condemning her that they're not even realizing that they have their own sin and, in bringing her to experience condemnation, they really condemned their selves because they had to then back away once they've realized that they were not without sin.

So, in trying to bring someone else into condemnation, they really have to face their own sin, but Jesus, who is the one who had no sin said to the woman, "Where are they? Has no one condemned you?" and then He said, "Neither do I condemn you." So, Jesus who has the power and the authority to condemn because he was perfect, because he was righteous, chose not to.

So, oftentimes, we listened to the voice of ourselves. We listened to the voice of other people. We listened to the voice of Satan

and his little demise, and they're constantly condemning us, constantly attacking us. When in reality, nobody has the power and the authority to condemn except Christ himself because Christ is the perfect one. Christ is the righteous one. But, since Jesus is the only one who has the power and the authority to condemn, He's actually the only one who does not condemn, which doesn't make any sense to us.

But, so when we we're having this conflict when we we're like, "Okay, I don't want to come to Jesus because I feel like I'm going to be condemned because we're condemning ourselves, because we're letting other people condemn us, because we're allowing Satan to condemn us, but we have to consider these two things. The first is that we're already been condemned. So, us saying I don't want to go to Jesus because I don't want to be condemned, well, you're already condemning yourself. So, you might as well just come to Jesus. You're already condemning yourself. You're already allowing other people to condemn you, and you're already allowing Satan to condemn you. So, if you don't want to be condemned, you might as well just come to the one who has the power and the authority to condemn because condemnation from nobody else can't really be condemnation because we all have our sin and none of us would have been able to cast that first stone on that day.

And the second thing we have to think about is the fact that even though Jesus has the power to condemn us is that He absolutely will not because Jesus condemned sin on the cross. So, when we come to Him, He is no longer waiting to condemn us, but in reality, He's waiting to give us forgiveness and to give us freedom. And what happens is we think that by coming to Jesus, we're going to be condemned. When in reality, we condemned ourselves when we don't come to Jesus. When we stay in that dark place, when we stay with those sins, when we stay not coming to Christ and experiencing freedom, that is where we condemned ourselves.

John 3:16 through 18. It says, "For God loved the world in this way, He gave his one and only son so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His son into the world that He might condemn the world but that the world might be saved through Him. Anyone who believes in Him is not condemned, but anyone who does not

believe is already condemned because he has not believed in the one and only son of God.”

At Romans 8, Verses 1 and 2 says, “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus for the law of the spirit of life in Christ, Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.” So, we are no longer under the law of sin and death, but now we’re under grace in Christ Jesus. So, us coming to Christ is not what we experience condemnation, but we experiencing freedom and when we refused to come to Christ, that is us condemning ourselves.

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And so, at the end of this passage with the woman being brought to Jesus, Jesus tells her to go and to sin no more. And so, instead of keeping her sin and counting it against her and giving her shame and giving her guilt and giving her condemnation, He extends freedom. He says you have a way out. You don’t have to remain stuck in this thing. You don’t have to remain stuck there. You have it like He gives her freedom. He said to go and sin no more. Instead of being condemned, she is freed and she is freed because Jesus took that condemnation on our behalf.

And so, today, when we feel like we have so much sin and we feel so condemned so that we think we can’t come to Christ, we can remember that Jesus drank the cup of God’s wrath on our behalf, so that we don’t have to experience it. Jesus condemned it and, therefore, we no longer walk in it, but we repent and we move forward in the freedom that He gives to us. We are no longer slaves to sin, but we have been made free children in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8, Verses 14 to 15. It says, “For all who are being led by the spirit of God, these are the sons of God. But you have not received the spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received the spirit of adoption as Sons as by which we cry out Abba Father.” So now, instead of experiencing condemnation and guilt, we can experience freedom and, instead of being afraid to come to Christ because we think we’re going to be condemned, we can actually come to Him boldly because He is now our father. We’ve been made His children.

And so, if you flip over to First John, it says, -- this is First John, Chapter 1, starting at Verse 1. It says, "What was from the beginning what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touch with our hands concerning the Word of Life, and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testified and proclaimed to you the eternal life, which was with the father and was manifested to us. What we have seen and heard, we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us and, indeed, our fellowship is with the father and His son, Jesus Christ. These things we write to you, so that our joy may be complete." This is the message we have heard from Him and announced to you that God is light. And in Him, there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice truth. But if we walk in the light as He himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus, His son, cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sin, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

In Chapter 2, Verses 1 and 2. It says, "My little children, I am writing you these things so that you may not sin. But, if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the father. Jesus Christ, the righteous, He himself is the propitiation for our sins and not only for ours but also for those of the world." And so, this is telling us that, as children of Christ, we should walk in the light as He is in the light, and we should not walk in darkness because when we walk in darkness, we're not actually children of the light. But then, it goes on to say, but we're all sinners and we all sinned. If you say that you're not a sinner, then you're lying and you're calling God a liar because you're saying that you're not a sinner. And then, it says, but if we do sin, we have an advocate. We have an advocate because on this side of heaven, we will always have a sin problem every single one of us. No matter how righteous we may think that we are, no matter how righteous we may think that somebody else is, we will always have a sin problem on this side of heaven.

But, the good news is that we have an advocate before the father who is Jesus Christ, the only righteous one, the one who fulfilled the law perfectly that we could not fill, the one who has the

authority to condemn because He is perfect. Yet, He takes His authority and instead uses that not to condemn us but to advocate for us and to intercede on our behalf.

In this Verse 2 in first John, Chapter 2, it says that “Jesus was the propitiation for our sins.” So, I had to look up that word because I don’t know what propitiation is, and it says propitiation is Christ’s atoning sacrifice that appeases God’s wrath. Therefore, because Christ was sacrificing our behalf, He appeased the wrath of God. He’s satisfied it.

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Therefore, God has no more wraths for us even though we sin daily. The wrath was taken care up on the cross because Jesus chose to drink the cup of wrath in our place.

And so, there is no more condemnation for us in our sin because Christ was condemned on our behalf. There is no more fear when we come to God after we sin because Jesus drank the cup of wrath that should have been given to us. So now, we don’t have to fear experiencing God’s wrath because Jesus took the wrath. And now, there’s no more shame when we come to Jesus after we sin because Satan wants us to think that Jesus is waiting to punish us. When in reality, Jesus is waiting to free us. He wants us to come to Him because He is willing to give us that freedom and because He is interceding for us and because He is advocating on our behalf. So, even though, we will always have a sin problem on this side of heaven. We always have an advocate and his name is Jesus.

And at the same time while Jesus is advocating for us, we have the Holy Spirit working on the inside of us giving us the will and the desire to do the father’s will. That’s what it says in Philippians 2, Verse 13. “The Holy Spirit is literally working in us to conform our wills with the will of the father.” Like, when you just think, I think that’s crazy, like so often in our sinful nature, we desire things that are so outside of the will of God. And like Paul says, “You know, I do the things that I don’t want to do and I don’t want to do the things that I know I need to do, right.” And so, oftentimes, like our desires are opposite of what God desires for us, but we have the Holy Spirit at work in us each and every day conforming our will to the will of the father.

And so, I remember I was talking to somebody recently, and they told me to be quick to repent. I'm like who says that first of all, but they said be quick to repent because as soon as you feeling that conviction, that is the Holy Spirit and that is a good thing. The Holy Spirit is for you. You're not feeling that conviction because it's condemning you and because it's shaming you and because it's wanting you to run away and never come back to Christ. You're feeling that conviction because the Holy Spirit is for you and wants you to experience the best relationship with Christ that you can have. And if you're not quick to repent, you're harbouring sin in your heart that Jesus wants you to be free from. He doesn't want you to keep that on the inside. He wants you to be free from that.

And so, oftentimes, we put it off and we avoid it because we don't want to bring it to Jesus like He doesn't already know, but First John 1, Verse 9, I just read this, but it says that he is faithful to forgive us when we confess our sins. So, we can be confident in our confession to Christ because He is faithful to forgive us for it because He's not waiting to condemn us, but he is advocating for us. We have an advocate. We are not without hope. We have an advocate who was constantly interceding for us, constantly working on the inside of us, conforming us to be more like Him.

I see this thing going around social media, and it's comparing like -- this is like religion versus Christianity, and the one that says religion, it says, "Oh, crap. I messed up. I can't tell my dad," and the one that says Christianity, it says, "Oh, crap. I'm messed up. I need to go tell my dad," and that's how Jesus says, like He doesn't want us to feel afraid or feel like we can't come to Him or feel condemned if we try to come to Him. He wants us to come to Him because like a good father, He loves, and He doesn't want you to try to fix your mess on your own, but He wants you to bring it to Him and allow Him to do the work and to fix it and to help you. We have an advocate and his name is Jesus.

And so, oftentimes, we get so caught up and thinking like, "Oh, I'm not perfect" or "Oh, I should be a Christian. I should be a better Christian. I should be doing this much by doing that but, in reality, we can rest because we know that the Holy Spirit is working on the inside of us. The Holy Spirit is conforming us to be like Him, and in that process of conforming us to His image, it is a process. There's definitely a process. It doesn't happen overnight, but it's a process and, in that process, we come to

know and to understand more and more the state of our own hearts and the depth of our own sin and that allows us to see more and more the grace and the character of God and how humongous His love is because it doesn't make sense to us when you're recognizing. Well, my sin is so big, not even that. It's like, you have one of the like "big sins". There are no big sins, just throwing it out there, but like say, I think that "Oh, all I did was tell a little white lie," but once you have the Holy Spirit working on the inside of you, you know that little white lie doable and that I can sleep.

The Holy Spirit will continue convicting you, continue telling you, "Hey, you did this and that's not like my image and I'm making you like my image. I'm conforming you into my image."

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So, I have to do is repent, and then you can go and sin no more with the power of the Holy Spirit, not in our own, not on their own, not in our own ability, but through the power of the Holy Spirit at work in us. We have an advocate. We think we're doing this on our own. We think we're trying to live right or do right or say right when in reality, we can't. We're all sinners in need of a Savior and that is why Jesus came. But, praise God because we have an advocate. He's advocating for us when we cannot do anything ourselves. We could not save ourselves, which is why Jesus had to come in the first place.

And so, the Holy Spirit in us is continually purifying and sanctifying us and conforming us into Christ. And so, while the Holy Spirit is at work in us, it is making us hear our sin more, but it is making us more confident the fact that we can come to Christ because we know that we have an advocate. Our sin is no longer our identity. We are no longer getting what we deserve because of our sin, but we have this hope and we have this promise that Jesus paid it all and because of Him, we can come to God fully surrendered and saying here it all is, take it, make me more like you, and we can have hope because we have an advocate and it is not Jesus against us because of our sin, it is Jesus against our sin because He loves us so much.

So, Jesus is our biggest advocate in the face of our biggest enemy and, when we're feeling that condemnation from the enemy, we

can remind ourselves that we have Jesus advocating for us and He has never lost.

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