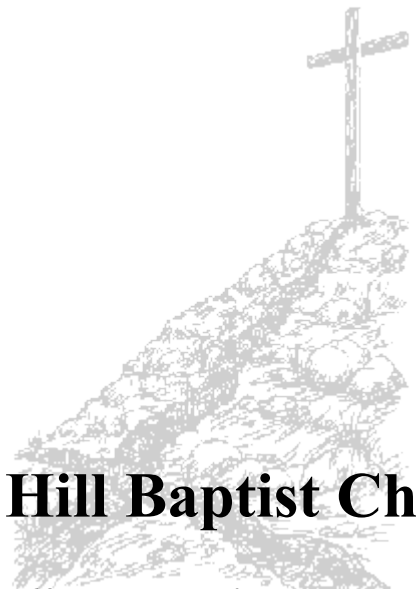


A Woman Taken In Adultery

John 8:1-11; 1 John 3:2-8



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FOCAL John 8:1-11 KJV "Jesus went unto the mount of Olives. {2} And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them. {3} And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, {4} They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. {5} Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? {6} This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with [his] finger wrote on the ground, [as though he heard them not]. {7} So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. {8} And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. {9} 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. {10} 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? {11} She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more."

Commentary 1 John 3:2-8 KJV "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. {3} And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth

himself, even as he is pure. {4} Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. {5} And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. {6} Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. {7} Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. {8} He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil."

There are two sections of verses that we need to look at tonight - one section we'll study, and the other section we'll use as a commentary to the section we study. One section is familiar - the story of the *woman taken in adultery* - and the other section is perhaps not as familiar. Both both sections that we'll study are important because they *are* Scripture, God's Holy Word.

1. What Did Everyone Do?

FOCAL John 8:1-4 KJV "Jesus went unto the mount of Olives. {2} And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them. {3} And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, {4} They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. "

As we look at this account in the life of our Lord and

look for application *in our lives*, the first question we need to answer is "What did everyone do?" Let's look at the different people in this lesson.

a. What did Jesus do?

FOCAL John 8:1-2 KJV "Jesus went unto the mount of Olives. {2} And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them."

What was Jesus doing in this story? First of all, **Jesus went unto the Mount of Olives**. This was about a mile east of Jerusalem. We don't know exactly what Jesus was doing there, though it was common for Jesus to go

Matthew 14:23 KJV "**up into a mountain apart to pray**: and when the evening was come, he was there alone."

Luke 9:28 KJV [Jesus] "... took Peter and John and James, and **went up into a mountain to pray**."

up into the mountains to pray. Jesus generally spent a lot of time in prayer, especially before He went to teach or preach to the people. Myself, I believe that He was praying in the **Mount of Olives** - but you are free to disagree with me. Following this our Lord came **early in the morning ... into the Temple and all the people came to Him, and He taught them**. Jesus was doing the work of God. Jesus was *feeding* the people of God, and

He was *glorifying God* in all that He did. Jesus lived a *surrendered life* unto the Father, and lived to *glorify the Father*.

1. Why do you think Jesus went up into the Mount of Olives? (Matthew 14:23; Luke 9:28) What was our Lord's focus while He walked this earth? (John 12:25-28; 1 John 3:2-3)

Our Lord once said:

John 12:25-28 KJV "He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. {26} **If any man serve me, let him follow me;** and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will [my] Father honor. {27} **Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour. {28} Father, glorify thy name.** Then came there a voice from heaven, [saying], I have both glorified [it], and will glorify [it] again."

That's what our Master existed for - to glorify the Father, to serve God by serving others - even unto the death of the Cross. Jesus glorified God, and commands us to follow in His footsteps. What does our commentary in 1 John tell us?

Commentary 1 John 3:2-3 KJV "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what

we shall be: but we know that, when [Jesus] shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. {3} And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as [Jesus] is pure."

Jesus was glorifying God by surrendering His life to the Father. We who believe in Him are to follow in His footsteps, surrendering ourselves to the glory of God.

b. What were the scribes and Pharisees doing?

FOCAL John 8:3-4 KJV "And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, {4} They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. "

What were the Scribes and Pharisees doing? Well *outwardly* they appeared to be doing righteousness. After all, according to their words they had found this woman violating God's *seventh Commandment (Exodus 20:14)*. According to them "**this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act**". Their words lead us to believe that that this woman was actually involved in the *process of sin* when they broke in on her. Again they said, **in the very act**. So what the Scribes and Pharisees would have us believe is that they were *obeying the Law of God* in bringing that woman before the Lord. That they were pure, and in their purity they were correcting sin within the camp. They even prefaced their judgment by calling Jesus **Master**¹, which was the same as calling

¹ G1320 (Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries), διδάσκαλος, didaskalos, *did-as'-kal-os*, From G1321; an *instructor* (generally or

Him *Master Teacher, Rabbi, or Doctor*. Jesus was addressed with the very greatest of respect. These men appeared to be doing righteousness. Were they?

According to the Law when people are **taken in adultery, in the very act**, then:

Leviticus 20:10 KJV "... the man that committeth adultery with [another] man's wife, [even he] that committeth adultery with his neighbor's wife, **the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.**"

2. If the woman was taken **in the very act** as these men said, then *where was the man who was with her?* (Leviticus 20:10; John 8:3-4) Were the Scribes and Pharisees using the Law of God *lawfully*? Why or why not?

If they brought the woman to Jesus to be judged, and if they called Him **Master**, then they should have also brought the *man* who was with her. As we read further in our text we see these men *nagged* at Jesus and demanded a response - not for righteousness sake, *nor* to glorify God - but

FOCAL John 8:6-7 KJV "... **This they said, tempting him, that they might have to**

accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with [his] finger wrote on the ground, [as though he heard them not]. {7} So when they continued asking him .."

What were these men doing? They were *conspiring* together to try and destroy another Person, the Son of God. They were *trying* to get Him to condemn Himself with His own words. They did not ask Jesus just *once* what He thought should be done, but they *repeatedly* asked Him. These men, in short, wanted to use the Law of God *unlawfully* so they could hurt someone else.

c. What did the unnamed woman do?

FOCAL John 8:9-11 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. {10} 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? {11} She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, **Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.**"

Was the unnamed woman guilty of sin? Yes, she was! At no point did she protest her innocence, nor did she declare herself innocent after her accusers left. Our Lord Jesus told her, **go, and sin no more**. Jesus believed that she committed the crime she was accused of, and at no point did He *excuse* her guilt. She was a sinner, an adulteress, else our Lord would have not said **go and sin no more**.

specifically): - doctor, master, teacher.

3. Was the unnamed woman guilty of adultery? Why or why not?

2. Everyone But Jesus A Sinner: Harmarteology - The Study of Sin

In the story of the woman taken in adultery, *everyone* in this recounting was sinning *but* Jesus Christ our Lord. What is "sin"? In **verse 11** Jesus told the woman, "go, and **sin** no more". What was Jesus telling the woman?

When we look up the word "sin²" in the Greek New Testament we see that the word means "to miss the mark, to err or offend God, to trespass". This is a good definition. In fact, one scholar (I forget who) defined "sin" as "shooting at a target with an arrow, and missing the bulls eye".

4. What is the *technical* definition of *sin*?

That is a good definition - but I think a better definition comes from our Commentary:

Commentary 1 John 3:4-8 KJV "... Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth³ also the law: for sin is

2 G264 (Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries), ἁμαρτάνω, hamartanō, ham-ar-tan'-o, Perhaps from G1 (as a negative particle) and the base of G3313; properly to miss the mark (and so not share in the prize), that is, (figuratively) to err, especially (morally) to sin: - for your faults, offend, sin, trespass.

3 G4160 (Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries), ποιέω, poieō, poy-

the transgression of the law. {5} And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. {6} Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. {7} Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. {8} He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil."

There are *four* definitions for "sin" in our Commentary.

- a. (verse 4) sin is the transgression of the law
- b. (verse 5) sin is a transgression of the Cross
- c. (verse 6-7) sin is a transgression of the code of the Family of God
- d. (verse 8) sin is glorification of and service to Satan

Let's apply these definitions to the story of the woman taken in adultery.

a. (verse 4) sin is the transgression of the law: In 1 John we are literally told that "sin is doing anything against the Law of God". The Scribes and Pharisees who brought this woman to Jesus *violated* the Law when they failed to bring the *man who was in adultery with her*. Those who keep the Law are required to *fully keep*

eh'-o, + ἀνομία, anomia, an-om-ee'-ah = to make or do illegal or lawless things; violation of law or (generally) wickedness: - iniquity, X transgress (-ion of) the law, unrighteousness.

the Law. **Leviticus 20:10** said that **both adulterer and adulteress** were to be put to death. Where was the adulterer?

God's Law makes no distinction on sin, nor is there one law for women and another law for men. Sin is a violation of God's Law. The Apostle James warned us:

James 2:9-11 NIV ".. if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. {10} For **whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.** {11} For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker."

These Scribes and Pharisees *conspired* to bring Jesus up on charges. They were not using God's Law to point out sin within the camp. They were using God's Law to *bring false witness against Jesus* - a violation of God's *ninth commandment* - and in so using the Law they broke the Law themselves. By not bringing the guilty man before Jesus they brought a *false witness* before God in God's own Temple. What would the Law require of them? We read:

Deuteronomy 19:16-21 KJV "**If a false witness rise up** against any man to testify against him [that which is] wrong; {17} Then both the men, between whom the controversy [is], shall stand before the LORD, before the priests and the judges, which shall

be in those days; {18} And the judges shall make diligent inquisition: and, behold, [if] the witness [be] a false witness, [and] hath testified falsely against his brother; {19} Then shall **ye do unto him, as he had thought to have done unto his brother: so shalt thou put the evil away from among you.** {20} And those which remain shall hear, and fear, and shall henceforth commit no more any such evil among you. {21} And thine eye shall not pity; [but] life [shall go] for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot."

The Law of *lex talionis*, of *tooth and claw* applied to the false witness. Such is the *grace of our Lord Jesus Christ!* When these men came in with a woman - minus the male adulterer - Jesus could have pulled out the Law of God and had done with them as they would have done to this woman. They demanded that she be stoned - so would the liars and false witnesses be stoned. Yet Christ came to save men, even worms such as this!

5. What portion of the Law did the Scribes and Pharisees violate? (Deuteronomy 19:16-21; James 2:9-11; Leviticus 20:10)

b. (verse 5) sin is a transgression of the Cross: Again, in 1 John we are told that "... sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that [Jesus] was manifested to

take away our sins; and in him is no sin.". There was no sin in Jesus, and never will be sin in Jesus. Our Lord was **manifested to take away our sins**. The Bible tells us that Jesus took away our sins at a terrible price. We are told:

1 Peter 2:21-24 KJV "... Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: {22} **Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:** {23} Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed [himself] to him that judgeth righteously: {24} **Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness:** by whose stripes ye were healed.

and

Colossians 2:13-14 HCSB "... when you were dead in trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, He **made you alive with Him and forgave us all our trespasses.** {14} **He erased the certificate of debt,** with its obligations, that was against us and opposed to us, and **has taken it out of the way by nailing it to the cross.**

Sin is a *transgression of the Cross*, taking lightly what Jesus so terribly secured for us. **Wilmington's Guide To**

The Bible gives a wonderful illustration of what Adam and Jesus did for us⁴:

The First Adam's Sin	Dealt With By The Second Adam (Jesus)
Introduced death, Genesis 2:17	Hebrews 2:9 ^{KJV} But we see Jesus , who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.
Introduced nakedness, Genesis 3:17	John 19:23 ^{KJV} Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments..."
Introduced a curse, Genesis 3:14	Galatians 3:13 ^{KJV} Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed [is] every one that hangeth on a tree:
Introduced sorrow, Genesis 3:17	Isaiah 53:3 ^{KJV} [Christ] is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were [our] faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
Introduced thorns, Genesis 3:18	John 19:5 ^{KJV} Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns , and the purple robe. And [Pilate] saith unto them, Behold the man!

4 adapted from Wilmington's Guide to the Bible, Page 7, *Vicious Vocabulary of Sin*

The First Adam's Sin	Dealt With By The Second Adam (Jesus)
Introduced sweat, Genesis 3:19	Luke 22:44 ^{KJV} And being in an agony [Jesus] prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.
Introduced the sword/spear, Genesis 3:24	John 19:34 ^{KJV} But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced [Jesus'] side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

Sin is a transgression of the Cross, a *taking lightly* of what our Lord Jesus Christ is and what He did for us all. The Bible speaks severely about all those who sin lightly:

Hebrews 10:28-29 NIV "Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. {29} **How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him,** and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?"

6. Why is sin a violation of the Cross, terrible in the eyes of God? (Hebrews 10:28-29; Colossians 2:13-14; 1 Peter 2:21-24)

c. (verse 6-7) sin is a transgression of the code of the Family of God: We are told in our 1 John Commentary:

Commentary 1 John 3:6-7 KJV "... **Whosoever abideth in him [Jesus] sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.** {7} Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

Those who belong to the Family of God want to be like Jesus, for Jesus is *with* us and is *in us*. Jesus Christ by His Cross *freed* us from slavery to sin so that we could become the *servants of righteousness*. When John said **he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as He [Jesus] is righteous** this was the same thing said in the Book of Romans, where we read:

Romans 6:15-18 KJV "What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. {16} Know ye not, that **to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?** {17} But God be thanked, that **ye were the servants of sin,** but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. {18} **Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness."**

We *were* servants of unrighteousness, transgressors of the Law, those who *delighted* in committing and serving sin. We are now called to be *servants of righteousness* just as Jesus is righteous. The Code of the Family of God is to:

2 Timothy 2:15-16 KJV "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. {16} But **shun profane [and] vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness."**

and also,

Romans 12:9 NIV "Love must be sincere. **Hate what is evil; cling to what is good."**

Sin offends God, making light of the Blood of Christ!

7. The Christian, a Child of God, is required to _____ sin and _____ righteousness. (2 Timothy 2:15-16; Romans 12:9; Romans 6:15-18; 1 John 3:6-7)

Illustrate Salvation Creates A New Creature: There are many people who have the mistaken idea that salvation *requires no change of life*. Yet we know from the Scriptures that this is not true. There were *two thieves* who hung next to Jesus as He hung on the Cross. One of those thieves reviled Jesus, and said "If You be

the Son of God, get yourself and us down from these crosses". Yet the other thief said:

Luke 23:42 KJV "... **Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom...."**

It was this thief and not the other who was saved, though both thieves suffered equally on their crosses. One thief had *no* change of heart, the other thief called Jesus **Lord** because of his change of heart. One was saved, the other lost forever.

Nay Beloved, you can see literally *hundreds* of places in the Scripture where *only* those who underwent a change of heart were saved. The woman taken in adultery called Jesus **Lord** and was saved. The **leper** came to Jesus and said (**Matthew 8:2**) "**Lord, if Thou wilt, Thou canst make me clean**". Upon calling Him **Lord** Jesus healed him. The **centurion** who called Jesus **Lord** in **Matthew 8:6** saw his servant healed. The **blind men** who said **yea, Lord** to Jesus were healed in **Matthew 9:28**. Over and over again in Scripture we see that those who accepted Him as Savior *also* accepted Him as Lord.

It is an *oxymoron* for someone to claim Christ as Savior, and yet not call Him Lord. It is *absolutely unBiblical* for a person to claim that he is a child of God, and yet he or she wallows in sin. Those who are Christ's are *new creatures*, children of God by faith in Christ and by the supernatural intervention of the Holy Spirit of God. Sin is a violation of the Family Code, and an offense to the Family.

Finally,

d. (verse 8) sin is glorification of and service to Satan:

We are told in our 1 John Commentary:

Commentary 1 John 3:8 KJV "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil."

When the Scribes and Pharisees brought the adulteress to Jesus, our Lord *could* have addressed the fact that there was no adulterer present. He could have quite simply asked, "Where's the man, if this woman was *taken in the very act*"? These are the words of the Law, and our Lord would have been justified using the Law against them. But these men were already violators of the Law, and as such were **committing sin**. The Scripture says **he that committeth sin is of the devil**. We don't like that statement - at least, I know that I don't like it. When I sin my power source cannot be God, nor can it be Christ. When I commit sin I glorify the devil, I imitate the devil. How horrible this thought! Jesus Christ was **manifested**, that is, He came into this world to destroy the **works of the devil**. When I sin, I am not working with Jesus, but I am working with the adversary.

Could this be what Jesus meant when He rebuked Peter? Do you remember that time when Jesus began to tell His disciples that He would have to die for our sins? Do you remember Peter telling Jesus, "Not so, Lord! We will not allow you to go to that Cross!" Do you remember the

words that Jesus said to that dear Apostle?

Mark 8:33 KJV "... [Jesus] rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men."

I do not like the thought of this, that when I sin I support Satan. Oh, how I hate Satan! How I despise that creature for all he has led to eternal hellfire! I do not wish to glorify that vile creature, so I renew my heart and rededicate my life to Jesus. I reject that old filth monger, and look fully upon my Master's face.

8. If it is true that sin glorifies Satan while offending God, how will this effect my behavior as a believer in Christ? (1 John 3:8; Mark 8:33)

Jesus was manifested to *destroy* the works of the devil - is there any logic or Scriptural basis to suppose that those who are Christ's will *continue* to do that which so offends God? Nay, I tell you! James even showed the illogic of such a thought when he wrote:

James 3:11-12 KJV Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? (12) Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.

You were created to be sons of God, not to be imitators

of Satan! As a dear friend once said:

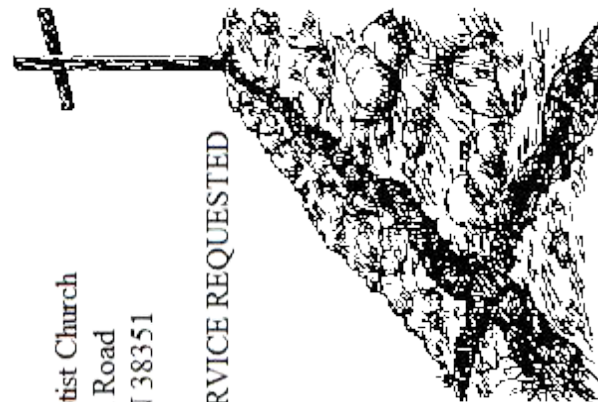
"The Son of God became the Son of Man so that sons of men could become Sons of God" (John White)

**3. Only Jesus Can Give Grace,
For He Alone Is Sinless**

There was a sinner who lay in the dust before Jesus that day. The Pharisees and Scribes demanded her death, but the Law was not an issue. The Law was violated, and those who condemned her were its violators. Only one Person could free the sinner, and that Person was Jesus Christ. He alone was without sin. He alone could make straight that which was crooked. The story ends this way:

FOCAL John 8:10-11 KJV "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? {11} She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, **Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.**"

Thank you, Jesus, for being our Lord and Savior. Help us, dear Lord, to **go and sin no more**. Let us exhort one another to walk in the Light as He is in the Light. Let us encourage one another to love and good works. Let us live our lives for Jesus and Jesus alone, for He alone is worthy! Let us praise Him, and secure His promise - for we who believe in Him, out of our bellies shall flow rivers of living water. Amen!



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