

JOHN

Chapter 8

Note from Kathy

Even though some of the earliest manuscripts do not include John 7:53-8:11 (below), no one knows for certain. These verses are consistent with all Jesus' teaching and actions. So, we will study them and discuss them and glean all we can from them.

John 7:53-8:11 *"then they all went home, ¹but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. ²At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. ³The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group ⁴and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. ⁵In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" ⁶They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. ⁷When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." ⁸Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. ⁹At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. ¹⁰Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" ¹¹"No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."*

Woman Caught In Adultery



Observation

1. John 7 ended with division and varied opinions concerning Jesus. The text says they all left and went to their homes, all except Jesus. John 8:1 tells us Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Turn to the map of Jerusalem on page 40 to get an idea of where he went.
2. At dawn Jesus returned to the temple courts. Who was with him, and what was Jesus doing?
3. All of a sudden Jesus' teaching is interrupted. Who arrived?

Why Does Jesus Write on the Ground?

According to Deuteronomy 22:22 and Leviticus 20:10, both the man and the woman caught in adultery were supposed to be accused, not just the woman. So, this was the first issue Jesus would have had with them just bringing the woman.

According to a John 7 Commentary on www.biblegateway.com, "Perhaps the most common suggestion is still the most likely—that he wrote out some form of condemnation addressed toward them. This interpretation has been strengthened in recent years by the publication of a papyrus fragment from 256 B.C. (Zenon Papyrus 59) that uses the verb found here (katagrapho) in the sense of writing out an accusation against someone (Bauer, Gingrich and Danker 1979:410). Or maybe he enacted Jeremiah 17:13 by actually writing out the names of the accusers or the commands the accusers were guilty of. Since they did not get his point right away, perhaps first he cited Jeremiah and then, as they persisted, he began to write their names. Such suggestions are obviously speculative, but they indicate possible explanations of what is happening."

Romans 1:18-20

"The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse."

4. Who did they bring to Jesus?
5. What did they make her do that would have inflicted even more pain and shame?
6. What was their accusation?
7. Why did the Pharisees bring this matter to Jesus' attention?

Did they believe in his authority?

8. While the Pharisees kept questioning Jesus, he knelt down and began writing on the floor. What do you believe Jesus might have written?
9. Standing to his feet, Jesus told them if any man could honestly say he has no sin, pick up a rock and be the first to stone her. Then he bent down and began writing again. What was the response of the Pharisees?

10. Who was left with Jesus?

What did Jesus say to her?

11. The purpose of light is to illuminate and expose what has previously been unseen. Jesus declared, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." These words are similar to John 1:4-5. Darkness can never overcome or extinguish God's light. Following Jesus allows us to see clearly and thus avoid sin. His light illuminates our way.

According to Romans 1:18-20, those who deny this light and choose to walk in darkness are _____

12. In verses 12-20 the Pharisees criticized Jesus for his testimony. They said, he couldn't be his own witness. What did Jesus present as proof of his authority?

John 3:2

“He came to Jesus at night and said, ‘Rabbi we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.’”

Deuteronomy 19:15

“One witness is not enough to convict anyone accused of any crime or offense they may have committed. A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.”

Romans 6:22-23

“But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

13. In this gospel, John lists seven times that Jesus specifically says, “I am.” We have seen two of the seven so far. Fill in the chart below. We will make note of each, as we come to them in each chapter.

Scripture	“I Am”
John 6:35,41,48,51	
John 8:12	

14. The Pharisees were confused by Jesus’ words. Jesus understood their confusion. What did he say was their real problem—what relationship did they lack? Read Nicodemus’ words in John 3;2.
15. The Pharisees were correct—the Law of Moses did state how a matter was to be settled. Read Deuteronomy 19:15, and underline what was required.
16. Read John 8:31-38 in your Bible. In verse 36 Jesus told his followers, “if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” Read Romans 6:22-23. What are men and women to do to be free from bondage?
17. In this section Jesus questions the true allegiance of the leaders and the people. They all like to claim to be Abraham’s children. What does Jesus say about their claim to be the children of Abraham, and who does Jesus say is their father?
18. In verses 37-47, what did Jesus say these Pharisees were continually looking for and why?
19. The arrogance and pride of these Pharisees kept them from seeing the truth about Jesus. What vital fact did Jesus share in verse 58 that should have clarified his identity?
20. What was their response to this truth, and what happened to Jesus?

Application

Galatians 6:1-5

“Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. ²Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ³If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. ⁴Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, ⁵for each one should carry their own load.”

Hebrews 4:16

“Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

Matthew 6:24

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other.”

John 8:20

“no one laid hands on him, for his hour had not yet come.”

John 2:4

“Woman, why do you involve me?” Jesus replied. My time has not yet come.”

1. What character qualities of Jesus have you seen thus far in your study of John’s gospel? Simply list a few.
2. Have you ever caught someone red-handed like the woman in John 8? How did you handle the matter? Were mercy and grace your first response or did you need a bit of time?

Often our first response is one of judgment, but if we take a few minutes and talk to Jesus about it we will find what we need. Read Galatians 6:1-5 and Hebrews 4:16 for the Lord’s instructions on these matters. Highlight or underline what we are to do.

3. In my younger years I battled my temper. It did not take much to ignite a forest fire in my heart. When I got saved, I longed to live pleasing to God. I asked the Lord to help me get control of my emotions. As I focused on the grace God had lavished on me, I could then in turn extend mercy to others. And as a result, I saw less and less of my harsh, judgmental attitudes that led me to such anger. I no longer was in bondage to Satan. I no longer listened to his voice.

According to Matthew 6:24, how can we avoid falling into the bondage of sin?

Like I was set free from anger, what are some things you have been set free from because of Jesus?

4. God spoke to Moses in Exodus 3 and stated, “I am.” Now, in John 8:12, we see Jesus using this same expression. What does Jesus’ “I am the light of the world,” mean for you today? If you were talking to a friend, how would you describe the benefits of Jesus’ “I am the light” in your world today?
5. Once again, in verse 8:20 the apostle John makes a reference to God’s timing in Jesus’ life. We saw a similar statement in John 2:4. What do these verses tell you about God’s plans and purposes?

Abide - Meno

Meno is the Greek word meaning to abide, to remain, to continue.

Romans 5:12

"Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all have sinned."

Hebrews 9:27

"Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment."

Romans 3:23

"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Romans 6:23

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

John 5:24

"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my words and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."

John 6:40

"For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."

6. In verses 31-32 Jesus calls those who believe in him to "abide" in his word. As a disciple or follower of Christ, what do you believe this means for you personally?

7. Children bear a strong resemblance to their parents. As a child of God, what characteristics and qualities should others see in us that show we are His children? Read the verses below and identify the character qualities that we should demonstrate to reveal our heavenly Father?

John 8:42 –

John 13:34-35 -

John 15:10 -

8. In John 8:44 Jesus describes Satan as a liar and a murderer from the beginning. He is referring to the events of Genesis 2-3. What was the chain of events? How did these events affect you? Before answering, read Romans 5:12.

9. Jesus gave us a wonderful promise of eternity in John 8:51, "Very truly I tell you, whoever obeys my word will never see death." No one will live forever in their fleshly body. What was Jesus trying to tell those who were in the temple courtyard that day?

Now, read Hebrews 9:27, Romans 5:12, Romans 3:23 and Romans 6:23. After pondering the verses, go back and read John 5:24, John 6:40, 47, 63. What does placing our trust in Jesus give us?

Jerusalem at the Time of Jesus

