



Who is Jesus? The Gospel of John – Week 21

Preacher – Sandy Mason | Text – John 8:1-11

Summary:

When you come to this passage, your bible probably says something like, “The earliest manuscripts do not include 7:53-8:11.” Robert Mounce says, “The last verse of ch. 7 and the first eleven verses of ch. 8 record an event that occurs nowhere else in Scripture. In fact, it should probably not be included in the fourth gospel either, since it is absent from virtually all the early Greek manuscripts. Scholarly opinion, however, judges that, while it is not part of the authentic material of John’s gospel, it may well have happened.”¹ Despite this fact, the representation of Jesus in this passage and the theology espoused here are true to the character of John’s gospel, and there is much we can learn from the events described here.

Discussion:

1. What was the most important take-away for you from this week’s message?
2. What does it mean for how you understand this text and its place in Scripture in light of the fact that it is most likely not part of the original text?
3. Why do you think the Pharisees and scribes brought the accused woman before Jesus (especially in light of their conflict the previous day)?

¹ Robert H. Mounce, “John,” in *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary: Luke–Acts (Revised Edition)*, ed. Tremper Longman III and David E. Garland, vol. 10 (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007), 469.

4. **Application:** Were the Pharisees really interested in Jesus' words, or were they seeking to justify themselves? How can we find ourselves approaching Scripture with an eye to self-justification?

5. What was wrong with the Pharisees' application of the Law in this instance? What were they missing?

6. The text doesn't tell us what Jesus wrote on the ground. What do you think he was writing, and why? (There's no way to know for certain, so any guesses we make are simply conjecture – it's fun to imagine, though!).

7. What was the result when Jesus challenged the motives and behavior of the accusers? Why?

8. **Application:** What does Jesus' statement in v. 7 mean for you and me? How do our feelings about 'justice' and punishment change, depending upon who is on trial (ourselves or someone else)?

9. What do Jesus' words to the woman in vv. 10-11 tell us about Jesus' view of the grace and mercy of God with respect to the requirements of the Law? Application: How might his words relate to the condemnation we feel with respect to our own sin?

10. How would you 'title' this section? In other words, how would you restate the main purpose John had (as the author) in writing this passage?