

The Gospel of John: Light in the Darkness
The Woman Caught in the Act of Adultery; John 7:53-8:11

John 7:53-8:2 And everyone went to his home. But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. And early in the morning He came again into the temple area, and all the people were coming to Him; and He sat down and began teaching them.

Later mss add the story of the adulterous woman, numbering it as John 7:53-8:11 (NASB)

The most ancient Greek manuscripts do not include John 7:53–8:11. (NLT)

The most ancient authorities omit 7.53–8.11; other authorities add the passage here or after 7.36 or after 21.25 or after Luke 21.38, with variations of text (RSV)

The earliest manuscripts and many other ancient witnesses do not have John 7:53—8:11. A few manuscripts include these verses, wholly or in part, after John 7:36, John 21:25, Luke 21:38 or Luke 24:53. (NIV)

Luke 21:37-38 Now during the day He was teaching in the temple, but at evening He would go out and spend the night on the mountain that is called Olivet. And all the people would get up very early in the morning to come to Him in the temple to listen to Him.

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Consistent with Luke in general, as he often puts stories of men next to stories of women. He also often makes shocking choices: Zacchaeus over the Rich Young Ruler and the Widow and her mite over the wealthy givers in the temple.

John 7:50-52 Nicodemus (the one who came to Him before, being one of them) said to them, "Our Law does not judge the person unless it first hears from him and knows what he is doing, does it?" They answered and said to him, "You are not from Galilee as well, are you? Examine the Scriptures, and see that no prophet arises out of Galilee."

John 8:12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; the one who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

John 9:14 Now it was a Sabbath on the day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes.

John 7:53-8:2 And everyone went to his home. But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. And early in the morning He came again into the temple area, and all the people were coming to Him; and He sat down and began teaching them.

John 8:3-4 Now the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman caught in the act of adultery, and after placing her in the center of the courtyard, they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the very act of committing adultery.

John 8:5-6 Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women; what then do You say?" Now they were saying this to test Him, so that they might have grounds for accusing Him. But Jesus stooped down and with His finger wrote on the ground.

Distinguishing between civil law and individual response. The theocracy was not applicable since Israel was under Roman authority and the Romans had removed the ability of Jewish leadership to perform executions.

Other distinctions, do not commit murder...then the order by God for the death penalty for certain offenses under the Mosaic Law and Israel's theocracy. Jesus command to treat enemies a certain way in the Sermon on the Mount, is not a prohibition against a government taking military action.

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The dangers of comparative righteousness.

"MY CHILD, do not take it to heart if some people think badly of you and say unpleasant things about you. You ought to think worse things of yourself and to believe that no one is weaker than yourself." Thomas A. Kempis, Imitation of Christ

A believer must live with a posture that is broken over the sin in ourselves first, then broken over sin in others, and finally broken over the sin in the culture at large.

John 8:7-9 When they persisted in asking Him, He straightened up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. Now when they heard this, they began leaving, one by one, beginning with the older ones, and He was left alone, and the woman where she was, in the center of the courtyard.

John 8:10-11 And straightening up, Jesus said to her, "Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on do not sin any longer."No condemnation...

Romans 8:1 Therefore there is now no condemnation at all for those who are in Christ Jesus.

John 8:10-11 And straightening up, Jesus said to her, "Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on do not sin any longer."Live in purity...