



Believe and Have Life*The Gospel of John***John 7:53—8:30****Read John 7:53—8:11.¹**

1. As Jesus begins to teach in the temple courts, the Pharisees bring before him a woman caught in adultery (v. 3). What must this have been like for her? (You may want to review what you learned about the Samaritan woman in Jn. 4:7–18.  * Mt. 1:18–19)
2. The teachers and Pharisees present themselves as very concerned about the keeping of God's laws.
 - a. Paraphrase the law they are asking Jesus' opinion on. (v. 5; Deut. 22:22–24)
 - b. Ironically, whom did the Pharisees fail to bring to Jesus?
3. What is the real purpose behind the question in verse 5? (v. 6)
4. The religious leaders clearly see the sinfulness of the woman's behavior. What does Jesus want them to see about themselves? (v. 7)
5. Jesus' interaction with the teachers has dramatically altered the woman's situation (vv. 4–5a, 10–11).
 - a. What does Jesus declare about her? (v. 11b)
 - b. How would you feel if Jesus said this to you?
 - c. What does Jesus command her to do? (v. 11c)
 - d. Does the order of what Jesus says to her surprise you? Why or why not?

¹ Your Bible may mention that 7:53—8:11 is not in the oldest and most reliable manuscripts. Scholarly commentators handle this differently but even if the account of this event did not appear in the early manuscripts, there is no reason to believe it did not happen.

*The  symbol indicates verses for further study.


Read John 8:12–30.

This section most likely occurred during the Feast of Tabernacles (Jn. 7:2). One elaborate part of this feast had to do with the lighting of lamps.²

6. In John 6:30–31, the people demanded a sign from Jesus like that of manna, and he says, “I am the bread of life” (6:35). In the midst of this feast, how does Jesus now identify himself? (v. 12)

7. This use of light to describe God is not new. Write how each passage helps explain what Jesus means when he calls himself the light of the world.
Ex. 13:18–22; Ps. 43:3

Is. 9:2; Jn. 1:4

Is. 60:19–20;  * Rev. 21:22–24

8. In verses 14 and 21, Jesus talks about going away.
 - a. What do the Jews think he is talking about? (v. 22)

 - b. What is Jesus talking about? (Jn. 14:1–2, 28; 16:28)

9. As Jesus teaches the people he is very clear about what is at stake.
 - a. What are the benefits of following (or believing in) him? (vv. 12, 19)

 - b. What is the cost of rejecting him? (vv. 19, 24)

10. The Gospel of John clearly highlights that the purpose, power and passion of Jesus’ life came from his relationship with his Father. What does Jesus say about his relationship with his Father in verses 14–30?

² A ceremony included in this feast was the lighting of four huge oil lamps which illuminated the court. It was said that the light from these lamps was so bright it penetrated every courtyard in Jerusalem. Jewish oral tradition says that the “men of piety and good works used to dance before the oil lamps with burning torches in their hands, singing songs and praises.” (Mishnah Sukkot 5:4).