

## **John 8:1 – 11**

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~ Our Spiritual Safari will travel from the Mount of Olives to the temple with Jesus in this leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God. There, we will meet another adulterous woman like the one we encountered at the well in Samaria. We've been warned about adding the leaven of the Pharisee's to the Gospel - and there won't be any leaven added to the message in this report to make it taste any better. This one isn't nice. If you cannot deal with the facts of life as they are presented to us by God, I suggest you stop reading now. This commentary will not sit well with a liberal, open-minded Christian as God succinctly and dogmatically describes those characteristics in a remarkably vivid illustration.

The liberal clings so firmly to liberalism that they typically cannot even recognize their own internally conflicted condition. They have the hardest hearts imaginable if you are trying to reach them with the Gospel, because they think they are already saved. Most pastors today have a degree in psychology or some other low-level academic achievement, and usually know absolutely NOTHING about the Word of God. Those are the ones who attempt to create a theology of motivating others to improve their self-esteem. Well, the only way one can improve their self-image is by accepting and trusting Christ. That said, this commentary will be downright insulting to some of you. I hope – and pray – that if you are in a liberal church, you will be enlightened and inspired to attempt to change your thinking; but I must caution again: read on at your own discretion.

I teach the Word of God in the manner I do because the sound doctrine of the apostles is the only thing – and I do mean THE ONLY THING – that changes lives and hearts and minds for the better in contemporary culture. I have thoroughly considered the psychological theories of many prominent men who currently preach and teach; and they have no notion whatsoever of changing the heart. They say they want to change the world - but they never get around to changing a life so that individual can make a difference

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in the world by allowing Christ to live through them. I just don't see that being taught today. The end result of that neglect is an unchanged flock – except for providing them justification of and making them feel better about being the awful people they are. The only thing religion does is improve one's self-image to give comfort in their sins. In other words, man's religion today is making the world a much better, more wonderful place to go to hell in. Therefore, I believe what is needed at this hour is a proper, correct and complete teaching of the Word of God. I hope if you say you agree with that you mean it – because that's exactly where this report is going.

Now, wherever you are today, perhaps the Philippines or Australia or Canada; maybe you are reading in the snow and others are reading in the sunshine on a beach – well – wherever you find yourself, and wherever this report finds you, I believe this message will have a direct message and application for you. This leg of our safari slows way down to examine only the opening incident of this chapter. It's going to take a few words to develop the woman taken in adultery. John always follows a particular pattern in his writing and this account is yet another conflict with the religious rulers; followed by a discourse about the light of the world.

In this passage, it is important to recognize certain sly and suggestive statements made concerning Jesus and His background. What we will examine closely is the religious ruler's denial of His virgin birth. Put verse thirty-three and thirty-nine together and you will see the Pharisee's say they are of Abraham; and you will also see Jesus call them the children of the devil. That's a very definite and unmistakable label. Verse forty-four clears up any misunderstandings about what we are talking about, because there is no truth in the devil or his children. Verse fifty-eight exposes and precisely defines what this conflict is about.

We are being presented with a woman who has been caught in adultery and the law says she is to be put to death. The Pharisees are asserting that Jesus was born an illegitimate child. The people in Nazareth were highly suspicious about Mary and Jesus; and a cloud hung over both of their heads throughout their entire lives. That cloud never lifted until the resurrection

of Christ. Remember, Jesus was the song of the drunkard down there. You can imagine the song lyrics that were recorded about Jesus and His mother. The Pharisees questioned His background completely and attempted to disguise the nature of their charges against Him as pertaining to healing on the Sabbath. It was a hypocritical lie. My safari friends – we simply MUST get a hold of this Scriptural dynamic in our understanding.

Then, as if that weren't enough; Jesus is also now claiming that God is His Father. We know that Jesus had no earthly father – but they don't believe that. Well, Jesus is claiming His virgin birth in this particular passage as He says, "before Abraham was, I am!" Micah told us He would come from Bethlehem, but Christ really comes from eternity - and that can only happen through a virgin birth. Our arguments today about shepherds, wise men and angels and locations and places and times are nothing in the world but useless carnality. The question is: Who is Christ to you? Jesus still asks that question to His friends. He is asking YOU: Whom do men say that I, the Son of Man, am? Well, if you ask that question to one hundred people you will get at least ninety-seven different answers. There is a great deal of a difference of opinion about Who the Lord Jesus Christ really was and is. Can you make the statement that Simon Peter made when he said to the Lord Jesus, "... thou art the Christ; the Son of the True and Living God." Frankly, the virgin birth is the only thing Christmas should really focus on. That little baby in Mary's arms just happens to be God.

Moreover, the account we are devoting this entire report to is not found in better manuscripts. Many Bible's have it reduced to brackets, as Nestle did, or they have a note stating how it was inserted at some later time. Many, such as Westcott and Hort, eliminate it altogether and make no mention of it. Others have moved it to the end of the chapter as a sort of footnote. The Old Scofield Bible has a note eliminating verse fifty-three of chapter seven through verse eleven of chapter eight. Our Spiritual Safari takes the position that it is very definitely an inspired inclusion to the Word of God, and I can state my reason for that acceptance, also.

The fact that this account appears in some manuscripts but not others is intriguing enough - and the question becomes: why was it added, how did it

get there, and why is it eliminated from some texts but not all manuscripts, including some of the better ones? My simple explanation is that some scribe, at some point in history, must have completely missed the point and felt like this teaches sin is okay and not a problem in our life; so, he just cut it out and moved it to the end of the Gospel, where it is found in many other versions. I am reasonably sure that's the way it became omitted from the original. I am also confident this is part of the Gospel of John. I believe it belongs right here in the beginning of chapter eight....

*1 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.*

~ We are waking up outdoors with Jesus and the apostles for a Bible lesson on one of the final days of His earthly ministry. John gives us a unique sidelight glimpse into the logistics of His ministry. Remember, the last chapter closed as every man went to his own house. That just happens to be part of this adulterous incident we are encountering. We aren't very hospitable in our modern society; even though we like to think we are. I wonder how many homes the Lord Jesus is TRULY invited to and welcomed in. Santa Claus usually occupies the main place at Christmas time, and a turkey takes honors at thanksgiving. Either way, these things are incidental; the important thing is: is Jesus honestly welcomed in your home today? It would have been wonderful to have had the opportunity to invite Jesus into our home at the time in which we are studying. Well, He isn't invited into anyone's home, and everyone is told to sit down because that was the proper position for teaching – and it still is. Candidly, you might want to be sitting down if you choose to continue reading....

*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.*

~ So, they caught them in the act, but they didn't bring the man? That tells me this was a set up from the start. Friends, I cannot think of anything more brutal, rude or crude than what we are seeing the religious rulers do here. We have many so-called Christians today – even fundamentalists – that are equally as crass and crude as these men were. I'm sure this woman in front of us is using some choice four letter word language at this point, too.

Jesus was sitting in the temple teaching the people as this unfolded. All of the sudden, a commotion begins to break out around the corner as the religious rulers drag some ragingly defiant woman with disheveled hair and a horrid body odor into the temple. Those sitting there being taught, naturally, turn to look at what's happening. That's when they drag this woman into the midst of His Bible class and throw her on the ground.

They seem to need to emphasize how she was taken "in the very act." I don't think there's any question this woman was as guilty as can be. Jesus tells her, later, to go and sin no more - so we know it's sin we're talking about. However, there are different ways of handling things like this; and brutal and cruel humiliation with public embarrassment is always inappropriate. You won't reach people with that tact, my beloved; you'll alienate them - irrespective of the fact that she was absolutely guilty and the things they were saying about her were true. In my judgment, the Pharisee's were equally as debased as this woman was....

*5 Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?*

~ Our safari has already studied Leviticus chapter twenty verse ten, and there's no arguing that this was the Law of Moses. There's no way of toning it down; we sure didn't tone it down in that study. This law is plain – they're both to be put to death. Well, the man involved wasn't brought because this is merely a set-up by the religious rulers to try to trick Jesus. See, the Pharisee's didn't have any interest in stoning this woman – oh, no, friends - they want to stone Jesus for a false teaching! This seems like a brilliant way to place Jesus on the horns of a dilemma. Will Jesus contradict Moses, or

will He say something new? Well, Jesus knows all of this because Jesus knows what is in the heart of man. Notice how Jesus isn't even looking at this woman....

*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.*

~ Jeremiah wrote something quite interesting in chapter seventeen of his prophecy. God said all who forsake the Hope of Israel shall be ashamed. It also says that those who depart from the Lord will be written in the earth. These are the ones who have forsaken the fountain of living waters. Now, this woman had forsaken the Lord, to be sure. But the religious rulers had also forsaken Him, so He starts to write something. This is the only occasion we have recorded where Jesus writes anything, too, by the way. I think perhaps Jesus wrote the names of certain women that each particular Pharisee had been doing business with over in Corinth. They saw those names written in the sand and they were shocked - because they didn't think anyone knew anything about those relationships....

*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.*

~ As insult to injury, the last thing I believe Jesus wrote on the ground was the name of some girl who one of the scribes had impregnated and left without marrying. Perhaps she had some type of medieval abortion. This Pharisee never imagined anyone could know about that episode, but there was her name - and his name together in the sand; soon to be trampled out and long forgotten by the crowds. I think Jesus went right down the list as they came near to Him, writing out the names of those they had cheated, defrauded, lied to, oppressed, stolen from and had committed murder against. I can picture the Pharisee's dropping the rocks and storming out one by one with their heads down. Jesus shut the stone throwing business down that day....

*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.*

~ The only One Who could have rightfully thrown a stone at this woman was Jesus Himself, friends. Instead, we see her and Him alone now. The religious leaders have all abandoned their efforts of hate because they were in no position to throw stones at anyone. In fact, they weren't even worthy to be TALKING ABOUT the Mosaic Law on ANY level. They were nothing but a bunch of lying, hateful, hurtful hypocrites - and we have them amongst us today. This happened under a cloud of suspicion regarding the Lord Jesus Christ and His virgin birth and, even as these two speak, Jesus is moving on a deliberate path to the cross to pay for her sins. Your sins. My sin. The sins of the world. Jesus is telling us all today, "... go, and sin no more" ~

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