

JOHN 8 vs 1

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This first verse of John, chapter 8... connects with the verse right before it; and this whole section -- verse 1 through verse 11... can be found in one of many different locations in the oldest bibles. It's located after John 7:36 ... after John 21:24 ... and it's even found after Luke 21:38. Very likely, this is the best place; as the previous day, He who is the Fountain of living water: cried out with a loud voice: If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink;

we read...

And everyone went to his own house.

¹ **Jesus went to the Mount of Olives** / it was the next day after **the Feast of Tabernacles** -- the great feast of thanksgiving in the late-Fall.

² **And early in the morning He came again to the temple area, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down, and taught them** / sometime in the 4th watch of the night; after 3:00 am... now most teachers... most professors like to stand and parade a little in front of the class; but He's different than most; He sits and teaches. And notice, we don't get to hear what He taught them! All the people had come gladly... early in the morning. So it must have been interesting don't you think?! Yet all the gospel writer tells us is...

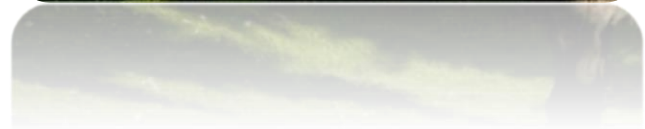
He sat down, and taught them / now that's almost a waste of ink and paper... wouldn't you say? They are sitting there... and He's teaching them! And then we read...

³ **And the scribes and Pharisees** / lovely snobs... they have come to interrupt Jesus, the teacher who is already educating this crowd of people that got up early to listen to Him.

the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman / just impertinently barging in... like children... like class clowns disrupting the lesson -- these snobbish scribes and Pharisees... like a gang of thugs they interrupt with a woman... **taken in ADULTERY!!** / Whoa! Oh, my Gotch! Hey, where is the man?

And they set her in the middle, / but where is the man?

⁴ **They said to Him, Master** / you know Einstein! **this woman was taken in adultery in the very act** / in the previous chapter... we read these religious leaders already sought to kill Jesus; they called Him a deceiver.



Now they have moved to Plan B in hopes that their flatteries will ensnare Him; and their vigorous prosecution of this female offender, certainly seemed to suggest they had a great zeal against this sin; though, we will find later they themselves are full of it.

And they say to Him...Um! Um! Um! **MAS-ter... uh MAS... Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very / EE...Ah...EE...Ah...EE-Ah-EE-Ah-EE act.** WOW! Whoa!!... can you imagine?!!

And you know... it's common in every generation that those who are indulgent to their own desires... are often the most severe in judging others over the same! Hypocrisy abounds in all levels of society; in all generations; even in ours. And to these Pharisees, the incontestable proof of the notorious crime is seen in the evidence: she was taken ... **in the very Act!** So that there was NO room left to plead: Not guilty!

⁵ Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned / and that's true. Under certain conditions, Moses commanded they be put to death. – the problem, Moses said **they**.

But what do You say?!!

And here's an irony: Those who are entrusted with the administration of justice, should look to Jesus for instruction and direction. And had they stopped there: **What do You say?**... they would have been right...

⁶ **But this they said, testing Him** / so, in essence, they ask: **What do You say who pretends to be a teacher sent from God?** What do You have to say in this case? If He should confirm the sentence and let it take its course, He would show He really was **not** a friend of tax-gatherers and whores. But if He should acquit her -- as they expected He would say; then, they could accuse Him as being an enemy of God, and one who had come to destroy the law and the prophets. They could accuse Him of being a friend of sinners... and a favorer of sin!: so wrote Matthew Henry.

This they said, testing Him, that they might have something to accuse Him; but Jesus stooped down, and with His finger / hmm?! wrote on the ground. / Now, we know history records Eusebius indeed writes of a time when Jesus wrote to Abgar, king of Edessa, in the area of Armenia, today. And recently that country honored king Abgar... putting his face on their largest currency note.

But in the gospels, this is the only mention of Christ ever writing; and, what He wrote... we do not know; though Zev Porat of Messiah of Israel suggests they said, yesterday you claimed to be the Messiah, the Fountain of living waters, now were bringing to you a woman caught in the act. What do you say? Notice Jesus does not argue with them; He knows when to speak, and when to remain silent. He certainly knew the word better than them.

But Jesus stooped down, and with His finger wrote on the ground.

Now was it His index finger? His pinky? or His middle finger? Your guess is as good as mine! And was He doodling in the dirt: Tic-Tac-Toe? ... I can't imagine He was drawing hearts and flowers. Maybe being called Einstein... He scribbled out his: mass energy equivalence formula; you know... **E=mc².**

What was He writing? We're not sure. But what we do know is: He was in charge; and He was here goading those prideful bean heads. His dismissive attitude -- His silence fanned their fury, and enraged their wrath.

7 So when they continued asking Him / they were irritated; they were frustrated. Now even the sons of thunder would have been quick to shoot their bolt, and fry some butt... but that's not the way of Jesus; and His is always the better way.

And He did, as it were, look another way... to show that He was not willing to take notice of their question; and in essence to say: Who made Me a judge... or a divider? And they pressed Him for an answer more vehemently. And they were sure... the trap they set... was ready to ensnare Him.

So when they persisted asking Him, He stood up / and it suggests, as if one arose from sleep. Stretching and yawning! Probably looking at everyone in the crowd... **and said to them**



He who is without sin among you,

let him first cast a stone at her / Moses already said if a false witness accuses of a crime, the judges will investigate, and if the witness is false, [you will do to that one what was intended for the other](#).

8 And again He stooped down, and wrote on the ground / and Christ had avoided their snare. And notice, He neither reflected on the law, nor excused the woman's guilt. And notice the trap they set for Him, snagged themselves. So when He said, Let him first cast a stone at her... HE knew their law. Moses prescribed in the execution of criminals that the hand of the eye-witnesses must be first upon them.

And since these scribes and Pharisees were eye-witnesses against this one... caught in the act, Jesus puts it to them: Would they, by their own law dare to be the executioners? In other words, would they take away the life with their hands... who they were accusing with their mouths?

He stooped down, and continued to write on the ground / Zev Porat says, He wrote Jeremiah: [O Lord the Hope of Israel, All who abandon You will be ashamed; and those who turn from You will be written in the dust, because they have forsaken the Fountain of living water, even the Lord](#). Jeremiah 17:13

9 And they who heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one. Matthew Henry says, They came with design to accuse Him; but they were forced to accuse themselves. And he adds, Perhaps His writing on the ground frightened them. Certainly, what He said frightened them, because He had shown them... to themselves.

And they were afraid should they stayed till HE stood up again... and His next word would... show them to the world; but that was too late. **beginning with the oldest, even to the last** / and they went out one by one... and probably softly... so as NOT to disturb Christ further!

Notice the order of departure began with the elders... because they were the most guilty; and certainly, the first to be aware of the danger they were in. Matthew Henry adds, And if the elders retreat ingloriously; the younger will soon follow them.

and Jesus was left alone,

and the woman standing in the middle / notice she is still standing where the fiery snobs put her; in the center of the assembly that gathered to hear Him preach. And notice she did not try to make her escape.

¹⁰ When Jesus stood up again, and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, Woman, where are your accusers? / and notice she doesn't even answer the question. She does not triumph in their retreat; nor raise a voice against them... who greatly witnessed against her.

Has no one condemned you?

¹¹ She said, No one, Lord / and Paul wrote, Who will lay a charge? Who will make an accusation? And did we hear that? Who will accuse God's elect?

And Jesus said to her, Neither do I condemn you / and quite frankly, it was none of His business to condemn her. When He came the first time, He was no judge or divider. And Jesus concludes:

Go, and sin no more. / what? Go, and sin no more? I've never met anyone who went and sinned no more! Have you? And Paul to the Romans reminds us: Whatever is not of faith, is sin. And Jesus says to this woman, Is this why you think you were created? Can you get a little faith in your life! Because without faith, it is impossible... to please God.

Neither do I condemn you. Go, and sin no more.

Every Praise

JESUS it is YOU

O Come Let Us Adore Him