



WEEK THREE

WOMAN CAUGHT IN ADULTERY

JOHN 7:53-8:11



ENCOUNTERS



JOHN SERIES





**Spiritual Leaders who
KNOW and EXPRESS
the Authentic Christ**



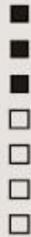
My hope for us:
to encounter Christ
to turn from evil
to love God and neighbor



Jesus Encounters Religious Hypocrites and an Adulteress



Three Movements:
The Art of Textual Criticism
The Heart of Stone
The Heart of Shame



John 7:43-45; 53 NIV

Thus **the people were divided because of Jesus.** ⁴⁴ Some wanted to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him. ⁴⁵ Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and the Pharisees, who asked them, “Why didn’t you bring him in?”....

[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.]

53 Then they all went home...



Inspiration of Scripture

Autograph vs Manuscript

“We believe that the Scriptures of both the Old and New Testaments are **verbally inspired by God**, in whole and in part, error-free **in the original writings** and the supreme authority of faith and practice for the believer in Jesus Christ. We further believe that there is but one true interpretation of any Biblical passage and this is only found when one accurately applies the literal-grammatical-historical method of interpretation”

- Fellowship Doctrinal Statement, *The Scriptures*



Textual Criticism

Manuscript Evidence



Author original author	Copies amount of copies	Time original to copy	Accuracy of the copies
Caesar	10	1000 yrs	N/A
Aristotle	49	1400 yrs	N/A
Homer's Iliad	643	500 yrs	95%
NT Authors	5748	< 100 yrs	99.5%



Pericope Adulterae: Text Or Tradition

“The **textual evidence** makes it impossible to hold that **this section is an authentic part of the Gospel...** But if we cannot feel that this is part of John’s Gospel, we can feel that **the story is true to the character of Jesus.** Throughout the history of the church it has been held that, whoever wrote it, **this little story is authentic.** It rings true.”

- Leon Morris, *The Gospel According To John*

**Jesus' justice, compassion, and invitation
to broken people in a broken world**





John 8:1-2 NIV

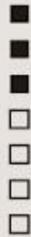
...but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. ² At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them.



Religious Hypocrites, an Adulterer, and Jesus

John 8:3-5 NIV

The **teachers of the law and the Pharisees** brought in a **woman caught in adultery**. They made her stand before the group ⁴ and said to **Jesus**, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. ⁵ In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?”



The Heart of Stone

Hard, Lifeless, and Cold

John 8:6-8 NIV

They were **using this question as a trap**, in order to have a basis for **accusing** him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. ⁷ When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “**Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.**” ⁸ Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.



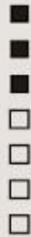
““

As I read the Gospels, I see people drawing near to Jesus. All kinds of people. Broken people, sinful people, marginalized people, people who are clean and unclean, pure and impure. Some are befriended. Others are confronted. All of them loved. And the people who are most repelled by Jesus are the religious hypocrites.

- **Preston Sprinkle**, *People To Be Loved*

**If the Gospel is not the good news for _____,
then it's not the good news of Jesus.**





The Heart of Shame Isolated, Afraid, and Hidden

John 8:9-11 NIV

At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. ¹⁰ Jesus straightened up and asked her, “**Woman, where are they?** Has no one condemned you?” ¹¹ “No one, sir,” she said. “Then **neither do I condemn you,**” Jesus declared. “Go now and **leave your life of sin.**”



“”

The use of pornography, pursuing extra-marital affairs, and buying sex are both shaped and predicted by the parts of a person’s past that remained unaddressed. If you want to find freedom, it will come to the extent to which you can accept that there are significant stories negatively shaping your life. Furthermore, the gospel is God’s story and invitation to be restored. It is God’s invitation to turn and face our wounds, to find the One who chooses not to be immune to or offended by our pain, and who instead becomes so acquainted with our pain that he offers his splayed and broken body for our forgiveness and flourishing.

- **Jay Stringer**, *What A Prostitution Survivor Taught Me About Joy*



John 8:12 NIV

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “**I am the light of the world.** Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will **have the light of life.**”

Jesus is just, compassionate, and invites broken people in a broken world to be made whole.





**Jesus invites us to
new life marked by:**

- grace and forgiveness
- confession and repentance
- commitment and holiness