

John 8

John 8.1-11

There has been a lot of discussion as to whether this is a part of the four gospels

-Manuscript evidence:

-Against: not found in Sinaiticus, Vaticanus, Alexandrinus, but is found in Codex Bezae (sixth century A.D.) - Jerome, Ambrose, and Augustine all refer to it

-Any ideas concerning why it might have been missing in the early manuscripts?

Some might have felt that could have encouraged leniency in sexual sins

V1 – Jesus went to the Mount of Olives (7/8 of a mile outside of Jerusalem)

V2 – **Why were they coming to Jesus?** Eager to hear about the "living water" and the words of truth

-Why did he sit down? Custom of Jewish rabbis

-He sat down in the boat and at the synagogue at Nazareth

V3 – **Does anything seem odd about this story? Anything strange?**

-They must have laid a trap for the woman

-How can you "catch" someone in this act without advance knowledge?

-And if she was caught in the act of sex, where was the man?

-This was a "set-up" for Jesus

V4 – Jews were probably full of pride in condemning this woman

V5 – **Read Deuteronomy 22:22**

-Had they quoted this correctly? No, the man was to die also

-Could Jews kill people in 1st Century Judea? Not without permission of the Roman government (very unlikely in this case)

-So that was not a practical question, only a test for Jesus

V6 – **The nature of the test?**

-If he said "stone her", it would be contrary to Roman law ("conspiracy to commit murder")

-If he said, "Don't stone her", it would be contrary to the Law of Moses

-So it was a loaded question

-What did Jesus do? Wrote in the dirt

-What did He write? The Bible does not say

-Some believe that he listed the sins of those present

-Is there any other place in the Bible where Jesus wrote something? The letters to the seven churches of Asia (*Rev. 2-3*)

V7 – No longer a technical argument, but a case of self-examination

-Does this mean we have to be perfect to make a judgment about someone? No, but we must have the right motives (*John 7:24* – righteous judgment).

V 8 – Jesus wrote in dirt again

-**Why did Jesus not comment anymore?** He wanted to let His words sink in

V 9 – **In what order did they leave?** Oldest to youngest

-**Why?** Older saw wisdom of what he had said

V 10 – See *John 3:16-17* - Jesus didn't come into the world to stone wicked women, but to get people to straighten out their lives and to offer them salvation

V 11 – **Instructions of Jesus to the woman?** Don't commit this sin again; make a clean break with sin

John 8.12-20

V 12 – The number two "I am" statement

-**Does anyone remember the number one "I am"?** *John 6:35*

-**What does "light" signify?** Goodness, etc.

Read 1 John 1:5-7 - God and righteousness

V 13 – A reference to *John 5:31* (that just bearing witness of yourself was not good enough)

-They try to catch Jesus on a technicality

-The Mishnah (Jewish law) said a person could not testify for himself

V 14 – Jesus: I can testify about myself since I know where I came from and where I am going

V 15 – **How did the Jews judge?** According to the flesh

-**Explain:** superficial judgment

V 16 – **Who assisted Jesus in judgment?** The Father

V 17 – **In the Old Testament, how many were needed to verify something?** 2 or 3 – *Deuteronomy 19:15*

-**Removing a bad elder?** **Read 1 Tim. 5.19** – 2-3 witnesses

V 18 – **Who were the two?** Father and Son

V 19 – **Why did they say "Where is your father?" and not "Who is your father?"**

They thought they knew his father (Joseph) and that Jesus was illegitimate

V 20 – Spoken in the treasury area of temple

-**Why was he not seized?** His time had not come yet

John 8.21-30

V 21 – Where had he made a similar statement? *John 7:35* – maybe a different crowd here

-Interesting: a statement of "sin" – and we can also commit "sins"

V 22 – How did they take v 21? Possibly reference to suicide

-What is the Biblical view of suicide? A great sin

-Suicides in the Old Testament? Samson, Saul, Ahithophel, Judas in the New Testament - **Read 1 Cor. 6.19-20**

-So Jews are ridiculing Jesus here (being sarcastic)

V 23 – The Jews viewed things in an earthly sense

-They did not look on the spiritual side of things

V 24 – What did they have to do to be saved? Believe, otherwise they would die in their sins

V 25 – They still want to know who he is

-His answer? Haven't you been listening?

V 26 – Notice: not speak "to you" but "concerning you"

-To be spoken "to the world"? No, just to the Jewish race

V 27 – Why had they not realized that he had been speaking about God the Father?

They were blinded by their traditions

-Our denominational friends say, "There is nothing you have to do to be saved. All you have to do is to get on your knees and let Jesus into your heart"

-But they are blinded to baptism

V 28 – Jesus: they knew, from a worldly point of view, where He came from, but they did not know he was really from heaven

-When would they begin to realize that he was the Christ? When he was lifted up

V 29 – What relationship existed between Jesus and God the Father? Always in communion

V 30 – The result of these words? Many believed

-Remember that this was the purpose of John in this gospel account: to get people to believe

John 8.31-47

V 31 – Many of the Jews did believe in him

-Are any denominational doctrines rejected by v 31? Once saved always saved – we must "abide" in the word

- The test of discipleship is "abiding," staying with it
- Notice the emphasis on "the word" = truth comes from the word

V 32 – Motto of David Lipscomb University (on the seal of the college)

- How would they know the truth?** By abiding "in the word"
- The result of knowing the truth?** Freedom
- Why is it good to know the truth?** Gives us a framework for interpretation of the scientific world

V 33 – The Jews took great exception to the statement that only in Jesus could they be free

- Individual freedom has been discussed by philosophers down through the centuries
- Is there such a thing as total freedom?** No, there are always physical restrictions – we can't fly without a plane, etc.
- In the moral realm, are people in the world free?** No, they are slaves to their passions – in other words, they do what their senses tell them to do
- How can we be "free"?** By controlling our passions so that what we want to do is good and not damaging to us
- Their response was highly emotional
- Had the Jews ever been enslaved?** Yes, to Assyria, Babylonia, Persia, Alexander the Great, Romans, etc.
- In fact, they were under Roman domination as they spoke

V 34 – Jesus didn't argue with political implications

- In what sense were they not free?** They could not keep from sinning

V 35 – The Jews were "slaves" to sin, no rights – could be sold, etc.

V 36 – **How could they be made free?** By means of the Son

V 37 – Jesus conceded that they were descendants of Abraham

- Was it good enough to be a descendant of Abraham?** Not any more - *Galatians 3:27-28*
- Notice that Ishmael was a descendant of Abraham, but not the child of the promise

V 38 – A contrast here between fathers

V 39 – They must have suspected something was coming since Jesus had already admitted that they were descendants of Abraham

- They had no reason to restate this
- The response of Jesus?** Do the deeds of Abraham

V 40 – **Why were they not "children" of Abraham?** Abraham never told them to kill someone for speaking the truth

V 41 – They began to see that he was talking about spiritual fathers

-Whom did they claim for a spiritual father? God

V 42 – **If so, what?** They would love Jesus

V 43 – Some say that this verse proves predestination

-Answer? No, Jesus spent all this time trying to reason with them, so change must have been possible

V 44 – **Their father?** The devil

-Had these Jews committed murder yet? No, but the thought is the same as the action (Sermon on the Mount)

-They had wanted to on several occasions

-Another sin of the devil? Lying

-In what sense was Satan a murderer "from the beginning"? He tempted Eve to sin, which resulted in her death

-Was he a liar? Yes, he said they would not die

V 45 – They didn't want to know the truth

V 46 – **Were there any grounds for their disbelief?** No, Jesus had not committed any sins

V 47 – Those who want to know the truth hear Jesus

John 8.48-59

V 48 – They were lashing out at Jesus

-Why would they accuse him of being a Samaritan? He had talked with the woman at the well, which resulted in many converts

-Words of derision

V 49 – Jesus denied having a demon, and the charge of being a Samaritan was obviously false (no need to prove it)

V 50 – Jesus would allow God to do the judging

V 51 – **In what sense will we not "see death"?** We must keep His word

V 52 – No separation from God

V 53 – **How did the Jews think Jesus had erred?** Abraham had died

V 54 – Jesus wanted no glory from himself

V 55 – Jesus knew the Father (not a lie)

V 56 - When did Abraham "see" Jesus?

Read Genesis 15:4-6, 22:16-18

V 57 – Did Jesus say that he had seen Abraham? No, but that Abraham had seen him

V 58 – Exodus 3:14

-Why didn't Jesus say "Before Abraham, I was"? Would have meant that He had a beginning, but present tense

-A reference back to *John 1:1*

V 59 – They were unable to kill Him

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