

- Videos available on our YouTube channel: [www.htchurch.tv](http://www.htchurch.tv)
  - All notes, etc. available at: [www.htchurch.com/john](http://www.htchurch.com/john)
  - Contact Pastor Nick at: [pastornick@htchurch.com](mailto:pastornick@htchurch.com)
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*Extended Q & A next week (May 26); final Spring session the week after (June 2).*

**Recap**

- In John 7, Jesus goes up to Jerusalem to teach at the Feast of Tabernacles, and the people had a severe disagreement about Him.
- We took time to explain the Feast of Tabernacles: it points to the future Kingdom of God, to Gentile salvation, and the outpouring of the Spirit.
- Jesus interrupts the feast on the biggest day, inviting people to come to Him and drink. Just as the priest would pour out water, Jesus promises rivers of living water for those who believe in Him.

**A Woman Caught In Adultery (John 7:53-8:6)**

*53 And everyone went to his own house. 1 But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. 2 Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them. 3 Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, 4 they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. 5 Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?" 6 This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear.*

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- As people return home from their pilgrimages, Jesus stays on the Mount of Olives. Jesus' Passion would happen on the Father's timetable only.
- He continues to teach in the mornings. In the Temple courts there was more than enough room.
- The scribes and Pharisees now bring Him a woman caught in the act of adultery. (Where was the man?) This was a trap similar to the question about taxes. If Jesus said not to stone her, He would be speaking against the Law. But if He said to stone her, that could be construed as rebellion against Rome. The Romans had taken away from the Jews the right of capital punishment.
- One of the greatest mysteries of the Bible: what was Jesus writing? One common interpretation is that Jesus was reminding them of Jeremiah 17:13: *"Those who depart from Me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living waters."* All such answers are speculation.
- Imagine God in the flesh, writing with His finger in the dust, as He had once written the tablets of the Law with a finger of fire!

### **A Note About This Passage**

- Many suggest that this passage doesn't belong in the Bible, because it's not found in certain manuscripts. Although several hundred manuscripts **don't** contain this story, almost 1500 manuscripts **do**.
- Some manuscripts could have had this section deleted accidentally because of reading practices in churches, but the story was well known to the Early Church.
- It seems to be known in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, and in the 4<sup>th</sup> century, Church Fathers such as Ambrose and Jerome reference it.
- In the 5<sup>th</sup> century, Augustine said men removed this passage from some copies for fear their wives would use it to avoid punishment after committing adultery!

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**The First Stone (John 8:7-11)**

*7 So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, “He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.” 8 And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. 10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?” 11 She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”*

- The Law demanded (Deut. 13) that if you were one of the accusing witnesses, you must be the first to throw a stone. You would have to be free of guilt yourself.
- These men were convicted by their consciences, either because they themselves were guilty of lust and adultery, or because they had been complicit in some way.
- Ultimately, after all the accusations that people bring against us, we are always left with Jesus only, our one, true Judge.
- Calling her “Woman” polite and respectful.
- There is no indication this was Mary Magdalen, or anyone else we know about.
- Jesus’ refusal to condemn her is in keeping with the prominent idea in *John* that God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world.
- Notice, though, that the mercy of God comes with a warning!

**The Light Of The World (John 8:12-20)**

*12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”*

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13 The Pharisees therefore said to Him, “You bear witness of Yourself; Your witness is not true.” 14 Jesus answered and said to them, “Even if I bear witness of Myself, My witness is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from and where I am going. 15 You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. 16 And yet if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone, but I am with the Father who sent Me. 17 It is also written in your law that the testimony of two men is true. 18 I am One who bears witness of Myself, and the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me.”

19 Then they said to Him, “Where is Your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know neither Me nor My Father. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also.” 20 These words Jesus spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one laid hands on Him, for His hour had not yet come.

- Another of Jesus’ “**I AM**” statements. This is another statement that is connected to the Feast of Tabernacles. It is a likely reference to the very high candelabras that burned at night in the Temple court, giving light to a large part of the City.
- This was also a call to follow Him. Feel the impact of Jesus’ shocking words!
- They again challenge his “invalid” testimony. Jesus can speak on His own behalf because of His totally pure motives and complete knowledge of Himself.
- They judge according to the flesh, according to the standards, biases, and prejudices of mankind.
- Jesus can testify about Himself because He isn’t alone: His Father is with Him.
- Are they implying that there was something amiss about Jesus’ birth?
- If they had known the Lord, they would have known the Father as well.
- Again, no one lays a hand on Jesus because it wasn’t yet His time.

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## **You Will Know That I Am (John 8:21-30)**

*21 Then Jesus said to them again, "I am going away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin. Where I go you cannot come." 22 So the Jews said, "Will He kill Himself, because He says, 'Where I go you cannot come'?" 23 And He said to them, "You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. 24 Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am [He], you will die in your sins."*

*25 Then they said to Him, "Who are You?" And Jesus said to them, "Just what I have been saying to you from the beginning. 26 I have many things to say and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him." 27 They did not understand that He spoke to them of the Father.*

*28 Then Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am [He], and [that] I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. 29 And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him." 30 As He spoke these words, many believed in Him.*

- Another failure to see what Jesus meant when He spoke of about going away.
- This might have been said in mockery so that He could hear it.
- The Lord becomes very blunt here. Most astonishingly, He claims to be not just the Son of Man but to be **Yahweh** God of Israel Himself.
- In verse 24 the word "He" is supplied by the translators; it is not there in the original Greek. What Jesus actually said was: "...if you do not believe that I am, you will die in your sins."

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- This is a direct claim to Deity. In addition, He says that if they fail to believe this, they will die in their sins, and so be damned.
- He has been telling them all along who He is, but they are too dense (and too evil) to perceive it.
- In v. 28 He again references His coming crucifixion. When they lift Him up (crucify Him) they will know that “He is.” After Jesus arose from death, the Holy Spirit, together with Him, taught the believers the Word of God concerning Him.
- The Lord emphasizes once again how He does nothing on His own, but perfectly obeys the Father!

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