

Jesus - How the Gospel Works!

May 10, 2026
John 7:53-8:11

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A Note About Our Text...

- Footnote: The earliest manuscripts do not include 7:53-8:11
- Two types of biblical criticism: Higher Criticism & Textual Criticism
 - Criticism is good when we seek to find God's truth, not when we stand in judgment of God's Word and decide if we like it
- More than 99% of Scripture is in agreement with the copies
- No major doctrines affected by variant readings
- NT has 10s of thousands of old copies in various languages - contrast w/ Plato or Homer where less than 1000. Few question their authenticity
- This text is part of God's inspired Word, may not have been in John's gospel but perhaps Luke. We can see the reality of the Gospel in it!

As Part of John's Gospel

- This text fits... Jesus' peaceful teaching interrupted by a trap of leaders...
- Scribes = Jewish theologians, legal experts in Jewish law
- Pharisees = 'one who is set apart'. Sought zealous obedience to God's laws

A Trap is Set...

- John shows this situation was attempt to again entrap Jesus^{7:44;32;30;13;1;6:41;5:16}
- Questions: where was the woman's partner in sin^{D122:22}? Why is he freed?
- How very wicked to use this woman's sin to entrap the Son of God
- Jews under Roman rule - they didn't allow vassal Jews capital punishment
- If Jesus said: stone her - against Roman authorities - rebellion
- If Jesus said: don't stone her - weak on God's law - against Sanhedrin

Jesus Does What Jesus Does

- Jesus surprises all - ^{8:6}*bent down & wrote...*
- Great question: what did Jesus write? Like God^{Ex31:18}? Sins of men? Jer^{17:13}?
- Then Jesus spoke: ^{8:7}*let him who is without sin... be the first to throw a stone...*
- Jesus never allows others to set His agenda - He is God on a mission^{5:37;6:38;7:29}

The Wisdom and Mercy of Jesus

- Jesus was not setting aside justice, He was speaking to evil men
- Not wrong to punish criminals for their crimes, but wrong to entrap
- Jesus didn't waffle between Jewish or Roman law - He sided with God's Law
- Jesus seems to allow her accusers to self-convict themselves
- Does that mean we should not have capital punishment? No^{Rom13:1-7}

Confronted by the Holiness and Power of Jesus

- Jesus again wrote on the ground^{8:8}... accusers dispersed^{8:9}...
- Evil men can't prevail over God's plan^{Jn18:16} though they try...

Redemption Through Grace

- Jesus stood^{8:10} and asked where accusers were?
- Woman seems to realize she is in presence of Redeeming Lord
- Jesus extends grace and calls to holiness^{8:11}
- Jesus didn't set the law aside, HE Himself met the law's demands...
- Psa^{85:10} *steadfast love & faithfulness meet; righteousness & peace kiss!*
- *Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder... He has washed us with His blood... He has brought us nigh to God...*