

Men's Sunday Night Live
Lesson 8 - John 8:1-59
Finding Identity and Purpose
Contrasts & Conflicts

The Feast of Tabernacles has just ended. Most of the crowds are leaving, but Jesus remains, for He has more to do on this visit. This chapter shows Christ in conflict with the Jewish leaders and presents a series of important contrasts. The scribes and Pharisees brought this woman to Jesus in the court of the women, in the treasury section of the temple. Their motive was to test Him and force Him into a dilemma. If He set the woman free, He violated Moses law, if He had her stoned, He could not claim to be One who forgives sins.

The great "I AM" statement in vs. 12 follows this incident. As the Light of the world, Christ claimed to be God, for God is light. Darkness speaks of death, ignorance, and sin; light speaks of life, knowledge, and holiness. There are two births: from above, being born again by God's Spirit, and from this world, being born of the flesh.

The Jews who believed were challenged to prove their faith by their faithfulness. Faith in Christ makes one a child of God, but abiding in the Word, and knowing and living the truth, makes one a true disciple of the kingdom.

The Bible speaks of three different kinds of "spiritual children." When we reach the age of accountability and deliberately sin, we become children of disobedience. When we put faith in Christ, we become the children of God. But the person who finally rejects the Savior and prefers self-righteousness becomes a child of the devil.

God honors His Son, but self-righteous men dishonor Him. When the bright light of God's Word shines on hearts, men must either accept it and be saved, or reject it and be lost.

The most difficult people to win to Jesus are those who do not realize that they have a need. They are under the conviction of God, yet they trust their religion to save them. They are walking in the darkness and not following the light of life. They are sharing a "living death" because of their bondage to sin; and, in spite of their religious deeds, they are dishonoring the Father and the Son. These are the people who crucified Jesus Christ, and Jesus called them the children of the devil.

Read John 8:1-11 and answer the following questions

1. What is odd about their accusation in John 8:4 against the women caught in adultery? (See Deut. 22:22) Why did they all of a sudden want Jesus' opinion?

2. What did Jesus write on the ground?

3. Who left after hearing, "*He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.*"? Why?

4. What was Jesus' goal for the woman, rather than punishing her as she deserved? What do Jesus' words in this story reveal about His views on sin and judgement?

Read John 8:12-30 and answer the following questions

5. What do you think Jesus means when He calls Himself "*The light of the world*"? (See 8:12, 9:4-5)

6. What does it mean that those who follow Jesus “*shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.*”?

7. What does Jesus mean by what He said in John 8:14?

8. What did Jesus say would be the consequence of not believing in Him?
(See 23-24)

Read John 8:31-47 and answer the following question

9. In John 8:31-32 Jesus is talking to the Jews who believe in Him. What does Jesus say about what it takes to truly be His disciple?

10. Think about truth. What is the difference between Godly truth and worldly truth? What are some things that you know are absolutely true?

Read John 8:48-59 and answer the following questions

11. What claims do the Jews make about Jesus in verse 48? Are they correct about their claims? Why would they even say this about Jesus?

12. What promise does Jesus give to the one who keeps His Word? (See 8:51)

13. What does Jesus say about how He compares to Abraham? How do the Jews respond to His statement, “Before Abraham was, I AM”? (See 8:58-59)

A Double Standard

A Great Word from the Word of Life Study Bible

The women presented to Jesus in John 8:3 must have been utterly humiliated at being dragged into the temple by self-righteous men who were only using her to try to trick the Teacher they hated. According to the law, adultery required capital punishment of both parties (Lev. 20:10). Did the accusers forget to bring the man? Or had they allowed a double standard to creep in? If so, Jesus refrained from challenging their hypocrisy, but He did set a new standard for judgement. Let someone perfect decide the case. Ironically, He was the only one who fit the qualifications, and He did decide the case, declining to condemn the woman, but admonishing her to go and sin no more.

Are there double standards in your moral judgements? Are you eager to point out the speck in someone else’s eye, while ignoring the plank in your own? Or perhaps, like the women, you have experienced the forgiveness of God for grave offenses against His holiness. If so, live in grace and sin no more.