

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN SESSION 10

Review: Last week we went through the seventh chapter which was all about Jesus's time in Jerusalem during the feast of tabernacles week. He went up secretly because there was a plot by the religious leaders to take him into custody and destroy him because he healed a man on the sabbath day. Right in the middle of the week, he went up to the temple to teach openly, and the crowd started a stir over him. When people started believing him and confessing out loud that he was the Christ, the Pharisees sent officers to arrest him, but they came back empty-handed and stunned. They told the Pharisees that never a man spoke like this man. Nicodemus somewhat stood up for Jesus before the counsel and advised them to examine his words and works before condemning him, but they insulted him as well.

John 8:1-2 Jesus went unto the mount of Olives. And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them. *The mount of Olives is one of three peaks of a mountain ridge just east of Jerusalem across the Kidron Valley. It was about a 15-minute walk and Jesus resorted there often to pray or be alone with his disciples. He came back to the temple to teach again even though officers were sent the day before to arrest him. A great crowd of people came to hear him.*

John 8:3-6 And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with *his* finger wrote on the ground, *as though he heard them not. This was a set-up job. How did they know that this woman was in the act of committing adultery? That's not something you see out in public as you stroll down the street. They set this woman up to use her as a pawn in their attempt to put the Lord in a trap. The Pharisees intended for Jesus to either break Roman law (by ordering her death) or contradict Mosaic law (by letting her go). They violated the law in question because according to the law both the man and the woman were to be brought for judgment. Jesus knew the intent of their hearts, so he completely ignored them.*

WHAT DID JESUS WRITE ON THE GROUND? We don't know. But here are some possible ideas:

- **Leviticus 20:10** And the man that committeth adultery with *another* man's wife, *even he* that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.
- **The sins of the accusers**
- **The ten commandments**
- **Jeremiah 17:13** O LORD, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, and they that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living waters.

John 8:7-9 So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. And they which heard *it*, being convicted by *their own* conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, *even* unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. *The same law that condemns you, condemns me. For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God! Every man is a sinner and therefore guilty of the judgment of the law. When Jesus pointed the law back at the accusers, their conscience took over and they had to drop their stones and leave. The eldest left first suggesting that age and experience brought greater awareness of their own sins or perhaps greater wisdom to recognize they were caught in their own trap.*

John 8:10-11 When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more. *Why didn't Jesus condemn her? She was guilty! He already answered that question back in chapter 3 - John 3:17-18 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. The purpose of the law was to drive guilty sinners with no hope to a compassionate Savior. They brought her to Jesus for justice, but mercy answered! Here we see Christ's fullness of both grace and truth by setting her free but warning her not to continue in her sin.*

John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. *This statement was given to the crowd. He was telling them that he is the exclusive source of spiritual truth, guidance and salvation. As light illuminates, reveals and guides, Jesus shines light on the human condition and reveals the way to God. The promise is that if you actively and continually follow him, you will walk in truth and have light for your path.*

John 8:13-18 The Pharisees therefore said unto him, Thou bearest record of thyself; thy record is not true. Jesus answered and said unto them, Though I bear record of myself, yet my record is true: for I know whence I came, and whither I go; but ye cannot tell whence I come, and whither I go. Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man. And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not alone, but I and the Father that sent me. It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true. I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me. *The Pharisees argue that since only Jesus is speaking, his testimony is not legally valid. They refuse to accept Jesus as the Son of God even though Jesus claims that the Father bears witness to who he is as well. Jesus tells them that they judge after the flesh, meaning only on appearances and only with their natural senses.*

John 8:19-20 Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also. These words spake Jesus in the treasury, as he taught in the temple: and no man laid hands on him; for his hour was not yet come. *These words are spoken in scorn. In other words "Where is this father you speak of and why isn't he here to speak on your behalf". Jesus plainly told them they didn't know his Father at all. If they had known who Jesus was, they would've known who his Father was.*

John 8:21-24 Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come. Then said the Jews, Will he kill himself? because he saith, Whither I go, ye cannot come. And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world. I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am *he*, ye shall die in your sins. *Again, Jesus tells these people that there will come a time when they will look for him but not find him. A terrifying statement "ye shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come" He is telling them that they are hell bound. They did not understand what he meant so he made it clearer: "I am from above and you all are from beneath" I am from heaven and you are of this world.*

John 8:25-27 Then said they unto him, Who art thou? And Jesus saith unto them, Even *the same* that I said unto you from the beginning. I have many things to say and to judge of you: but he that sent me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I have heard of him. They understood not that he spake to them of the Father. *Unbelievers are always confused. Jesus tells them that he has much judgement for them with but refrains currently because of his submission to the Father and commitment to His will.*

John 8:28-32 Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am *he*, and *that* I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I

He speaks these things. And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him. As he spake these words, many believed on him. Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. *He points to the cross and says that when they shall behold that sight, then they'll know who he is. He tells them that the Father is always with him because he always does His will. Many came to faith during this exchange and Jesus compels them to continue in his word (teaching). Disciples continue...the truth that makes free is submission to God's rule gives you freedom from sin and death.*

John 8:33-36 They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. *They keep thinking literally instead of spiritually. Anyone who doesn't believe he is Christ is still under the rule of sin. The pleasures of sin are temporary and the sinner's life is short and fleeting but the Son is eternal and those that believe on him will also live forever.*

John 8:37-40 I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you. I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father. They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham. *They were Abraham's seed naturally but not spiritually. They did the opposite of Abraham. He took God at His word and obeyed Him, they did not believe the truth revealed to them and wanted to kill Christ.*

John 8:41-45 Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, *even* God. Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. Why do ye not understand my speech? *even* because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not. *They take a jab at Jesus by saying "We be not born of fornication" insinuating that he was because of the circumstances of his birth. "Why do ye not understand my speech? Even because ye cannot hear my word" means unbelievers are always confused because they choose not to believe what is revealed to them. He calls*

*them children of the devil and says that they will do the same things that he did. All sinners are not children of the devil. The Bible calls them “children of wrath” and “children of disobedience” but children of the devil are people who have had the truth shown to them and willfully reject it. Cain was a child of the devil - **1 John 3:12** Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.*

John 8:46-50 Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear *them* not, because ye are not of God. Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil? Jesus answered, I have not a devil; but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me. And I seek not mine own glory: there is one that seeketh and judgeth. *Jesus challenges them to point out his sin and since they couldn't, why then wouldn't they believe him? You can't be of God and reject His word. The Jews, now offended resort to insults, calling him a “Samaritan” was a put down. They called him demon- possessed. He stated that he was not after personal glory and that the Father would vindicate him.*

John 8:51-53 Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death. Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death. Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself? *Jesus again states that he is the source of eternal life. The Jews can't comprehend this and point out that Abraham and the prophets are dead and ask him if he is greater than Abraham.*

John 8:54-58 Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God: Yet ye have not known him; but I know him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but I know him, and keep his saying. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw *it*, and was glad. Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am. *Since they asked if he was greater than Abraham, he pointed out that he was before Abraham (eternal). He stated that Abraham saw “his day” and was glad. He meant the day Abraham took Isaac to mount Moriah to offer him as a sacrifice but offered a ram in his place. That day God showed Abraham in illustrative fashion the plan of salvation through the death and resurrection of Christ. When Jesus said “before Abraham was, I am” he used the same name that God revealed to Moses.*

John 8:59 Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by. *They understood what*

Jesus meant and thought it was blasphemous. They immediately picked up stones to stone him, but he concealed himself and walked out through their midst.

Tonight's application: John 8:51 Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death. *We need to regularly be reminded of our possession of eternal life because of our faith in Christ. We aren't going to have eternal life in the future; we have it right now! This a truth that is restated through scripture: 1 John 5:11-13* And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. *Saints don't die; they go to sleep: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14* But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. **John 11:11** These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep. **Acts 7:59-60** And they stoned Stephen, calling upon *God*, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep. *The soul is ever conscious, but the body is what sleeps. The soul immediately goes into the presence of the Lord while the body sleeps, waiting for its redemption.*