

## John Chapter 8

Note on verses 1-11: Scholars agree that this story is reliable as an actual event from Jesus' life. However it does not appear to be an original part of this gospel because in early Greek manuscripts, it is found in different locations in John and even in other gospels.

1. What does the Bible say about the woman who was brought before Jesus?
2. What was the motive behind bringing this woman to Jesus?
3. Do you see any mention of the man who this woman sinned with? Why do you think that is?
4. What did Jesus do at first when they asked him what they should do? Make a guess as to why he did that.
5. When Jesus finally gave them an answer, what did he say?
6. In what order did the accusers leave? Why do you suppose it happened that way?
7. Jesus gives the woman a question, a statement, then a command. What did he say?
  - a. Question
  - b. Statement
  - c. Command
8. In verse 12 Jesus again begins to teach the people?
  - a. How does he describe himself?
  - b. What does he promise to those who will follow him?
9. Compare verse 14 with John 5:31. What do you notice?
10. Again, even though they wanted to, no one seized Jesus. Why is that?
11. What did the Jews think Jesus meant when he said, "Where I go, you cannot come"?

12. Complete Jesus' statement: "You are from \_\_\_\_\_ I am from \_\_\_\_\_."
13. When did Jesus say that they would understand the truth about who he was?
14. What will be the result of knowing the truth about Jesus?
15. What was wrong with the Jews statement in verse 33 about being slaves?
16. What kind of slavery and freedom was Jesus referring to?
17. Instead of Abraham or God, who does Jesus say that these Jews are the children of?
18. What two things did the Jews accuse Jesus of being?
19. What statement did Jesus make when the Jews mocked him for saying he knew Abraham?
20. Why did the Jews try to stone Jesus when he said this?

Digging Deeper: (John 8)

1. How is the situation with the adulterous woman a trap for Jesus? What were they hoping Jesus would do? What might the Pharisees accuse Jesus of if he had set her free? What if he had said for them to stone her?
2. In John 8:23 Jesus states that he is not of this world? In what ways could he intended the word "world" to be understood. In what ways is a Christian supposed to be "not of this world?"
3. Jesus uses the words "I am" several times in this chapter. Look at the following "I am" statements from the book of John and write down the basic meaning of what Jesus said in each one.
  - a. 6:35
  - b. 8:12
  - c. 9:5
  - d. 10:7,9
  - e. 10:11,14
  - f. 11:25
  - g. 14:6
  - h. 15:1,5

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Note on verses 1-11: Scholars agree that this story is reliable as an actual event from Jesus' life. However it does not appear to be an original part of this gospel because in early Greek manuscripts, it is found in different locations in John and even in other gospels.

- 1. What does the Bible say about the woman who was brought before Jesus?** *She had been caught in the act of adultery. The Jews had apparently witnessed this sin take place. Were they keeping watch on her.*
- 2. What was the motive behind bringing this woman to Jesus?** *This was a trap they were setting for Jesus. They were looking for a reason to accuse him before the authorities.*
- 3. Do you see any mention of the man who this woman sinned with? Why do you think that is?** *There is no mention of the man. Perhaps they trapped this woman to use her in their plan. Maybe they just wanted the woman because Jesus would have more compassion on her.*
- 4. What did Jesus do at first when they asked him what they should do? Make a guess as to why he did that.** *He bent down and wrote on the ground. Perhaps he was gathering his thoughts. Maybe he wrote out the law they referred to. Maybe he wrote the sins they had done.*
- 5. When Jesus finally gave them an answer, what did he say?** *"If any of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her."*
- 6. In what order did the accusers leave? Why do you suppose it happened that way?** *They left one at a time beginning with the older ones. They were the wiser people. Also they were the ones with the most sin.*
- 7. Jesus gives the woman a question, a statement, then a command. What did he say?**
  - a. Question:** *Where are they? Has no one condemned you?*
  - b. Statement:** *Neither do I condemn you.*
  - c. Command:** *Go now and leave your life of sin.*
- 8. In verse 12 Jesus again begins to teach the people?**
  - d. How does he describe himself?** *"I am the light of the world."*
  - e. What does he promise to those who will follow him?** *"Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life"*
- 9. Compare verse 14 with John 5:31. What do you notice?** *In 5:31 Jesus says that his testimony about himself is not valid. In 8:14 he says that his testimony is valid. He seems to contradict himself. However, he is saying that they would not accept his own testimony even though it was valid.*
- 10. Again, even though they wanted to, no one seized Jesus. Why is that?** *His time had not yet come. Again, by the work of God, they were prevented from seizing him until the time was right for him to be killed.*
- 11. What did the Jews think Jesus meant when he said, "Where I go, you cannot come"?** *They thought he intended to kill himself. In a way that is just what happened.*
- 12. Complete Jesus' statement: "You are from below I am from above."**

13. **When did Jesus say that they would understand the truth about who he was?** *When they had “lifted up the Son of Man.” In other words they would realize after he had been crucified.*
14. **What will be the result of knowing the truth about Jesus?** *Jesus said, “You shall know the truth and the truth will set you free.”*
15. **What was wrong with the Jews statement in verse 33 about being slaves?** *The Jews said that as Abraham’s descendants that had never been slaves to anyone. This was completely untrue. They had been slaves many times throughout their history – to the Egyptians for 400 years, to the Assyrians, to the Babylonians. They were currently under the rule of the Romans as they made the statement.*
16. **What kind of slavery and freedom was Jesus referring to?** *Jesus is referring to slavery to and freedom from sin.*
17. **Instead of Abraham or God, who does Jesus say that these Jews are the children of?** *Jesus told them they were children of the devil, whom he also calls the “father of lies”.*
18. **What two things did the Jews accuse Jesus of being?** *They accused him of being a Samaritan instead of a Jew and of being demon possessed.*
19. **What statement did Jesus make when the Jews mocked him for saying he knew Abraham?** *He said, “I tell you the truth, before Abraham was born, I am!”*
20. **Why did the Jews try to stone Jesus when he said this?** *In using the term “I am” they knew that Jesus was claiming to be God. This was the name God called himself when speaking to Moses from the burning bush in Exodus 3:14.*

**Digging Deeper: (John 8)**

1. **How is the situation with the adulterous woman a trap for Jesus? What were they hoping Jesus would do? What might the Pharisees accuse Jesus of if he had set her free? What if he had said for them to stone her?** *They were hoping to catch Jesus in his answer to their question. If he had told them to set her free, they would have accused him before the Sanhedrin for telling people not to follow the Law of Moses. If he had told them to stone her, they would have accused him before the Romans for executing someone without the proper Roman authority.*
2. **In John 8:23 Jesus states that he is not of this world? In what ways could he intended the word “world” to be understood. In what ways is a Christian supposed to be “not of this world?”** *Jesus was from heaven so in a way he was not from the physical world, even though he was a man. Jesus was above the worldly laws. Jesus was sinless and so he was not a part of the world of sin. We as Christians must live in a world that is controlled by Satan, but we should not be a part of that world.*
3. **Jesus uses the words “I am” several times in this chapter. Look at the following “I am” statements from the book of John and write down the basic meaning of what Jesus said in each one.**

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. 6:35 – <i>I am the bread of life</i></li> <li>b. 8:12 – <i>I am the light of the world</i></li> <li>c. 9:5 – <i>I am the light of the world</i></li> <li>d. 10:7,9 – <i>I am the gate</i></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>e. 10:11,14 – <i>I am the good shepherd</i></li> <li>f. 11:25 – <i>I am the resurrection and life</i></li> <li>g. 14:6 – <i>I am the way, truth and life</i></li> <li>h. 15:1,5 – <i>I am the vine</i></li> </ol>
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