

# 21 Day Journey Into The Bible

“Jesus Deals With An Affair” – John 8:1-59 – March 4, 2007

## Overview of Our Study Together

21 DAY JOURNEY INTO THE BIBLE				
<i>A Chapter by Chapter Study of the Gospel of John</i>				
Outline	Time	Content	Text	Date
Prologue		Introducing Jesus	John 1:1-18	Jan 7
Public Ministry of the Son of God	A Few Years	Jesus Calls His First Disciples	John 1:19-51	Jan 14
		Jesus Changes Water Into Wine	John 2	Jan 21
		Jesus Says, “You Must Be Born Again”	John 3	Jan 28
		Jesus Talks with a Sinful Woman	John 4	Feb 4
		Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man	John 5	Feb 11
		Jesus Walks on Water	John 6	Feb 18
		Jesus Teaches at a Convention	John 7	Feb 25
		Jesus Deals with an Affair	John 8	Mar 4
		Jesus Heals a Blind Man	John 9	Mar 11
		Jesus Claims to Be God	John 10	Mar 18
		Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead	John 11	Mar 25
		Jesus Receives an Extravagant Gift	John 12	Apr 22
Private Ministry of the Son of God	A Few Hours	Jesus Washes His Disciples’ Feet	John 13	Apr 29
		Jesus Promises to Send Help (1)	John 14	May 6
		Jesus Talks About Productivity	John 15	May 13
		Jesus Promises to Send Help (2)	John 16	May 20
		Jesus Prays for His Followers	John 17	May 27
Passion of the S.G.	A Few Days	Jesus Gets Arrested and Crucified	John 18-19	Apr 1
Post-Resurrection Appearances of the Son of God		Jesus is Resurrected from the Dead	John 20	Apr 8
Jesus Restores Peter		John 21	Apr 15	

## Outline of John 8

- John 8:1-11 – Jesus and the woman caught in adultery
- John 8:12-59 – Conflict and teaching regarding who Jesus is
  - 8:12-30 – I am the Light of the world
  - 8:31-59 – Children of Abraham; children of the devil

## Four Questions to Ask Myself from John 8

### 1. Is the Bible \_\_\_\_\_ and true? (7:53 footnote)

- What does this footnote mean?
- A short course on how we got our Bible
  1. God revealed Himself and His truths to prophets and apostles who were “carried along” (2 Peter 1:21) and inspired (2 Timothy 3:16) by the Holy Spirit in such a way that the words they wrote down were the very words that God intended: the Word of God. We will call these documents that they actually first wrote these words on... the “original manuscripts.”

2. Copies were made of these original manuscripts so that more people could have access to them.
3. At different points in history, people (rulers) have tried to eliminate the Bible by trying to destroy all of its original manuscripts and all of its copies (examples: Manassah, Antiochus Epiphanes, Diocletian, Synod of Toulouse, Bloody Mary). All of the original manuscripts were destroyed, but thousands of copies of the originals have survived.

Work	Date Written	Earliest Copy	Time Span	# Copies
Plato	350 BC	900 AD	1250 yrs	7
Herodotus	450 BC	900 AD	1350 yrs	8
Aristotle	350 BC	1100 AD	1450 yrs	49
Sophocles	450 BC	1000 AD	1450 yrs	193
Homer (Iliad)	900 BC	400 BC	500 yrs	643
New Testament	40-100 AD	125 AD	25-85 yrs	24,000

4. All of these thousands of manuscripts are in complete agreement with each other with a few exceptions in a few places. Bible scholars compare and study the few places where the manuscripts disagree to try to systematically determine what the original manuscripts said in that particular verse. John 7:53-8:11 is such a place. The footnotes will always tell you where this is the case (examples in John are 3:13,25; 5:2). Nowhere do any of these manuscript disagreements affect any significant doctrinal issues such as deity of Christ, salvation by grace through faith, second coming, etc.
5. The criteria that Bible scholars use in resolving these manuscript disagreements are (this is called “textual criticism”): (1) What do the earliest manuscripts say? The closer in time the manuscript is to the original writing, the more reliable it is deemed. (2) What do the majority of the manuscripts say? Multiple manuscripts from different places add validity.

### Some of Jim’s conclusions on this issue:

1. The Bible in its \_\_\_\_\_ manuscripts is without error. The Bible in its original manuscripts is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. There are a few places in the Bible that we do not know for sure (this side of heaven) what the original manuscripts said. All of these places involve matters that are not significant and that do not affect my faith.
  - Gleason Archer: “A careful study of the variants of the various earliest manuscripts reveals that none of them affects a single doctrine of Scripture. The system of spiritual truth contained in the standard Hebrew text of the Old Testament is not in the slightest altered or compromised by any of the variant readings found in the Hebrew manuscripts or earlier date found in the Dead Sea caves or anywhere else.”
3. John 7:53-8:11 was probably not in John’s original gospel (because the earliest manuscripts do not contain it). However, I believe that John 7:53-8:11 actually happened and that the manuscript copying scribes added it because they had heard John tell it so often.
  - John MacArthur: “This passage was most likely not part of the original text of John’s gospel. Yet it is beyond doubt an authentic fragment of apostolic tradition that describes an actual historical event from Christ’s life. It contains no teaching that contradicts the rest of Scripture. The story was most likely history, a piece of oral tradition that circulated in parts of the Western church. Eventually, it was written down and found its way into the later manuscripts.”

- Application #1 – Despite all of my questions, will I accept the Bible as God’s Word, fully true, and as the authority for all matters in my life?

## 2. Do I give \_\_\_\_\_? (8:1-11)

- Verse 3 Question: Why didn't they bring the man also? The Law required that both the man and the woman be executed (Deuteronomy 22:22-24; Leviticus 20:10).
- The trap (v.6a):
  - *Violate Roman law* – If Jesus says “Stone her,” then He is violating Roman law which only allows for the Romans to sentence someone to death and carry out the execution.
  - *Speak against OT Law of Moses* – If Jesus says “Don't stone her,” then he is contradicting the Old Testament Scriptures and speaking against the law God had given to the Jewish people.
- What was Jesus writing on the ground? (v.6b,8)
- The beauty and genius of Jesus' answer (v.7)
- Jesus' two-fold response to the woman (v.11):
  1. No \_\_\_\_\_ – Note that Jesus could have thrown a stone because He was the only one present who had no sin (Hebrews 4:15; 2 Corinth 5:21). Jesus extends this to us also (Romans 8:1).
  2. Call to stop \_\_\_\_\_ – Jesus always calls us to the best... to God's standards of holiness (1 Peter 1:15-16).
- Jesus has modeled for us the God-response to all the difficult situations:
  - Adultery
  - Divorce
  - Homosexuality
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- We have a God of second chances!!!
- Application #2 – Will I receive God's 2<sup>nd</sup> chance to me? \_\_\_\_\_ Will I extend to others this same forgiveness and grace? Will I give others second chances? \_\_\_\_\_ A particular situation where I am feeling God's prompting to give a second chance is \_\_\_\_\_
- Important Distinction: There is a difference between forgiving someone (not condemning someone) and allowing that person to abuse you over and over. God calls us to forgive. But God also calls us to have healthy boundaries (Mark 12:31; 1 Corinth 3:16). Forgiveness should be given quickly (Ephesians 4:31-32). Trust takes time (Matthew 10:16).

## 3. Who is \_\_\_\_\_? (8:12-59)

- Repeated question of this section (vv.25,53)
- Jesus' answers:
  1. I am the Light of the world (v.12)
  2. I am authenticated by 2 witnesses (vv.13-20)
  3. I am from above (vv.21-26)
  4. I am the Son of Man (vv.27-47)
  5. I am God (vv.48-59)(Exodus 3:13-14)
- These verses contain what has come to be called “The Great Trilemma” (first posed by C.S. Lewis)

- Application #3 – How will I respond to this trilemma? \_\_\_\_\_

## 4. Am I letting the truth \_\_\_\_\_? (8:31-32,36)

- *Set me free from what?* From slavery to sin (v.34) including slavery to self-condemning thoughts and accusations of the enemy that we are worthless (v.35).
- *What gives me this freedom?* Knowing the truth (v.32). Romans 12:2 calls it being “transformed by the renewing of our minds” to God's truth. There is life-changing power in meditating on God's truths and memorizing them and doing them (John 8:31).
- Application #4 – I will trust God to set me free from my slaveries and accusing thoughts by renewing my mind to the following truths:
  - In Christ, I am God's child (John 1:12)
  - In Christ, I am Christ's friend (John 15:15)
  - In Christ, I have been declared right before God (Romans 5:1)
  - In Christ, I am a saint (Ephesians 1:1)
  - In Christ, I am complete (Colossians 2:10)
  - In Christ, I am fully forgiven (Colossians 1:13-14)
  - In Christ, I am free forever from condemnation (Rom 8:1)
  - In Christ, I am a citizen of heaven (Philippians 3:20)
  - In Christ, I am God's masterpiece (Ephesians 2:10)
  - In Christ, I am a member of Christ's Body (1 Corinth 12:27)
  - In Christ, I am free from any charge against me (Rom 8:31-34)
  - In Christ, I cannot be separated from the love of God (Rom 8:35-39).

### Challenge to Memorize 10 Scriptures over These 21 Sundays

- John 1:14, John 3:30, John 5:19; John 7:37-38; John 8:31-32

### Discussion Questions with Family, Friends, and Small Group

1. Read John 8 and use these sermon notes to discuss the 4 questions that this chapter brings up. As you discuss, reread the sections of Scripture you are discussing. As you feel comfortable, share your applications with each other.