

John 8:1–11

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BIG SANDY, Texas—In the 7th chapter of John, Jesus and His disciples went to Jerusalem to observe the Feast of Tabernacles (verses 8-10). He began teaching in the temple in the middle of the Feast (verse 14).

Many Christians believe that some of the instructions that Jesus gave at the end of the Feast are found in John 8, 9 and 10.

This week, let’s notice John 8:1-11.

They tested Him

Jesus came from the Mount of Olives (verse 1) to teach the people in the temple (verse 2).

The scribes and Pharisees were watching and listening, and they wanted to test Him (verse 6). Therefore, they brought an adulteress before the crowd (verses 3-4).

They announced to the audience what Moses wrote in the law as the penalty for adultery (verse 5)—presumably paraphrasing from Leviticus and Deuteronomy.

Then they asked Him to respond (also verse 5).

They were wanting to see if His answer would deviate from the Scripture.

His first reaction

Christ’s first reaction was to begin writing on the ground. In a short matter of time, we can formulate some logical opinions about what He ultimately wrote based upon the reaction of the critics (in verse 9).

However, since there was no initial reaction from the critics, we can consider some possibilities.

- The critics did not react at this time because this period of writing was a short amount of time, and Jesus had not yet written much detail.
- The critics did not react at this time because the critics were so busy pestering Him (verse 7) that they didn’t see the details He was writing.

His first response

Christ's first response in this story is legendary.

He said: "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her" (verse 7).

We know from Scripture that there are times to say corrective words to other people. Consider verses like Galatians 2:11; Galatians 6:1; and 1 Timothy 5:19-20.

However, those verses do not undermine the attitude that Jesus taught in John 8:7.

People should not be quick to condemn other people.

He wrote again

Then Jesus stooped down again and began writing some more (verse 8).

While the Bible does not specifically say what Jesus wrote on the ground, it does tell us how the critics responded.

They were convicted by their conscience (verse 9). Therefore, many conclude that Jesus was writing about some of their personal sins.

These religious men were publicly announcing the sin of this woman. So it makes sense that Jesus was publicly announcing their sins.

Encouraging conversation

After all the critics left, Jesus had a conversation with the woman (verses 10-11).

Jesus: Where are your accusers? Is anyone here to condemn you?

Woman: No one, Lord.

Jesus: Neither do I condemn you. Go and stop sinning.