

John 7:53-8:30

Tuesday Bible Study: Week 12



April 21, 2026

1. Most scholars agree that John 7:53–8:11 was not part of the original Gospel of John, yet the Church has received and preserved this story as Scripture. What does it mean to you that the Church’s tradition of reading and teaching Scripture is itself part of how God speaks to us? Does knowing the history of this passage change the way you hear it?

2. The scribes and Pharisees bring the woman to Jesus and set her “in the middle” (8:3). How are they trying to use her? How might we be tempted to use people for our own ends? How can we resist the temptation?

3. Jesus bends down and writes on the ground (8:6), but John does not tell us what he wrote. What do you think he was writing (it is OK to use your imagination!)
 - a. What effect does Jesus’ silence and this mysterious action have on the way the scene sounds and feels?

4. Jesus says, “Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her” (8:7). One by one, beginning with the eldest, they leave (8:9). What do you think was going on inside those who had accused the woman?

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- a. Have you ever experienced a challenge that called you to see your own actions in a different light?

5. Jesus declares, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life” (8:12). Note the use of another “I AM” (*ego eimi*). Why might it be significant that this statement follows the scene with the woman caught in adultery? What does this tell us about who God is?

6. The Pharisees challenge Jesus’ testimony: “You are testifying on your own behalf; your testimony is not valid” (8:13). Jesus responds that his testimony is true because he knows where he came from and where he is going (8:14). Whose “testimony” has been most important in shaping your understanding of who Jesus is?

7. How does this passage challenge the way our culture understands or speaks about mercy and accountability as conflicting principles?