

John 8

Introduction.

- A. John 7:53-8:11.
 - 1. Not found in earliest and best mss.
 - 2. Dr. Alan Johnson wrote doctoral thesis on why it is authentic.
 - 3. Referred to by Papias (AD 60-13)), who knew John.
 - 4. We will assume it belongs.
- B. Review.
 - 1. Chap. 6: You have the words of eternal life.
 - 2. Chap. 7: Is this the Messiah?
 - 3. Chap. 8: I AM.
- C. Still at the Feast of Tabernacles.
- D. Introduces light-dark theme.

I. The woman taken in adultery (1-11).

- A. To trap Jesus (6).
- B. No one knows what Jesus wrote on the ground.
- C. Injustice of the accusation.
 - 1. She was just a tool to be discarded after use.
 - 2. Where was the man?
- D. Conviction of their own sin.
- E. Forgiveness -- but sin no more.

II. Fifth discourse (12-59).

- A. Jesus is his own witness (12-20).
 - 1. Light of the world (cf. Zech. 14:7; Ex. 13:21).
 - a. Old Testament themes.
 - i. Ch. 6 -- manna.
 - ii. Ch. 7 -- water.
 - iii. Ch. 8 -- light.
 - b. First part of the Feast, temple lit with candles all night.
 - c. Dawn's light reflected off gold of the temple.
 - 2. Self-witness is not legally valid.
 - a. It's still true -- divine authority transcends the Law.
 - b. Jesus knows where he is from and who sent him.
 - c. Two witnesses -- himself and his father.
 - 3. Contrast: Jesus's father -- their ignorance.
 - 4. His time had not yet come.

B. Further questions (21-30).

1. Going away -- you will die in your sins (cf. Ez. 3: 16-19).
 - a. Further misunderstanding.
 - b. Need to believe who Jesus is (24).
2. Who is Jesus?
3. Lifted up = crucified.
 - a. I am (28)
 - b. Always does what pleases the father (WWJD).
4. Many believed.

C. Whose child are you (31-47).

1. Contrasts.
 - a. Continue in Jesus -- freedom.
 - b. Continue in sin -- slavery.
2. Descended from Abraham but not his true children.
 - a. They seek to kill Jesus.
 - b. They do the work of their true father (the devil).
 - c. They refuse Jesus's message.
3. Actions show who their true father is.
 - a. They don't follow Jesus.
 - b. They lie -- like their father, the devil.

D. The ultimate choice (48-59).

1. Accusation.
 - a. Samaritan = heretic.
 - b. Demon possessed = crazy.
2. Jesus denies accusation -- he honors God.
3. Believer will not taste death.
 - a. Keep my word.
 - b. Keep = hear and obey.
4. Jews repeat charge of insanity.
 - a. But Jesus gets glory from the Father.
 - b. Jesus knows the Father -- they don't.
(So who is the crazy one?)
5. I AM.
 - a. Third time in this passage (24, 28, 58).
 - b. Blatant claim to deity.

III. Jesus forces them to choose.