

# THAT YOU MAY KNOW

*Great Expectations*  
John 7:53-8:11  
July 3, 2022

...Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more." - John 8:11

## Opening Note: The Woman Caught in Adultery

\*John 7:53-8:11 is not found in the most ancient biblical manuscripts, and it suffers from several internal and external indicators that cast serious doubt on its placement here in John's Gospel. It is also not addressed in any commentaries on the Gospel of John written by the early church Fathers. Nevertheless, that this is a genuine account of an event in the ministry of Jesus is almost universally accepted.

### I. GREAT INSIGHT

- The scribes and Pharisees present to Jesus a woman caught "in the act" of adultery. It is a situation set-up to accuse Jesus of a serious charge (Vs. 6).
- Jesus seems to ponder the situation. He is in no hurry to make a judgement. Only the woman has been charged, the man is not on the scene (Lev. 20:10-16).

### II. GREAT WISDOM

- Jesus sees through the ruse, but does not fail to pronounce his judgement: The witnesses who are present, who are without sexual sin, should be the first to execute the woman (Vs. 7, Col. 2:3).
- After thinking things over, the men trickle away, oldest first, then the youngest. Wisdom comes with age (Vs. 9; Job 12:12, 32:7; Ps. 90:12).

### III. GREAT COMPASSION

- Jesus recognizes the situation into which the woman has been placed. He chooses compassion over condemnation (Rom. 5:19-21).

### IV. GREAT EXPECTATIONS

- Grace is free, but it is not cheap. God's grace is a working grace. It sets us free, but not free to sin recklessly. It sets us free to pursue our true desire (Rom. 6:1-3; Titus 2:11-14).

**KNOW:** Jesus is no fool. He understood human sexual sin, and he understood human manipulation. He has great insight, great wisdom, and great compassion. He also has great expectations.

**DO:** Go, and from now on, sin no more.

### Suggested Reading:

*The Grace and Truth Paradox* by Randy Alcorn (LifePoint Library #248.4)

*Of The Mortification of Sin in Believers* by John Owen [modern English update by Cameron Lockey] (Available in the LifePoint Library)

### Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

#### Please Read John 7:53-8:11

1. What is the overall theme of this passage? Grace or Truth?
2. If questions remain concerning the legitimacy of this passage, or its placement here in John's Gospel, take some time to discuss your concerns.
3. What are the Pharisees and scribes up to here? What is their goal?
4. What did Jesus write in the dust? (If you know the answer to this, please tell Pastor Jym so that he will know).
5. Why is only the woman brought before Jesus?
6. Why does Jesus seem to take such a mild approach to the issue of adultery here? Or does he?
7. How has God's compassion impacted you in your life?