

Introduction

The woman caught in adultery was not originally a part of the Gospel of John.. According to almost all textual scholars they have agreed that these verses John chapter 7:53-8: 1-11, were not part of the original manuscripts.

However, it did find a place in John after the Gospel of John was published. In it you will find John's portrayal of Jesus as being constantly debating about “who he is and whether they should believe in him.

It has been assumed that John wrote with the knowledge of the other Gospels. In more than one of my commentaries, it states that John's Gospel is an evangelistic document.

What it does is presents the work and the words of Jesus Christ in such a way as to show the nature of him as a person.

The book of John's Gospel gives us his own interpretations and again it was written considerably much later than the books of Matthew, Mark, & Luke.

My goal is to raise your awareness level and your observation when it comes to understanding a passage of scripture.

Observation is simply asking questions and noting things in the text. You would want to ask the “who, what, where, why, when and how.”

You can look at words that seem important or is repeated, seems out of place, or how about something that seems to be there that should be there and the author is intentionally omitting?

BIBLE STUDY

John 7:53-8:11 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

The Woman Caught in Adultery

[[**53** Then each of them went home, **8 1** while Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. **2** Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. **3** The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, **4** they said to him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. **5** Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” **6** They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. **7** When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” **8** And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground.[a] **9** When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. **10** Jesus straightened up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” **11** She said, “No one, sir.”[b] And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.”][c]

Footnotes:

1. **John 8:8** Other ancient authorities add *the sins of each of them*
2. **John 8:11** Or *Lord*
3. **John 8:11** The most ancient authorities lack 7.53—8.11; other authorities add the passage here or after 7.36 or after 21.25 or after Luke 21.38, with variations of text; some mark the passage as doubtful.

John 7:53-8:11 Good News Translation (GNT)

53 [a] from Galilee.”

The Woman Caught in Adultery

8 Then everyone went home, but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. **2** Early the next morning he went back to the Temple. All the people gathered around him, and he sat down and began to teach them. **3** The teachers of the Law and the Pharisees brought in a woman who had been caught committing adultery, and they made her stand before them all. **4** “Teacher,” they said to Jesus, “this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. **5** In our Law Moses commanded that such a woman must be stoned to death. Now, what do you say?” **6** They said this to trap Jesus, so that they could accuse him. But he bent over and wrote on the ground with his finger. **7** As they stood there asking him questions, he straightened up and said to them, “Whichever one of you has committed no sin may throw the first stone at her.” **8** Then he bent over again and wrote on the ground. **9** When they heard this, they all left, one by one, the older ones first. Jesus was left alone, with the woman still standing there. **10** He straightened up and said to her, “Where are they? Is there no one left to condemn you?”

11 “No one, sir,” she answered.

“Well, then,” Jesus said, “I do not condemn you either. Go, but do not sin again.”][b]

Footnotes:

1. **John 7:53** no prophet ever comes; one manuscript has the Prophet will not come.
2. **John 8:11** Many manuscripts and early translations do not have this passage (8.1-11); others have it after **Jn 21.24**; others have it after **Lk 21.38**; one manuscript has it after **Jn 7.36**.

Observations