

Following Jesus - The Life of a Disciple - Part 25

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Lesson 25 Conflict over Law & Conflict over Light

Background:

We saw in the previous lesson that Jesus had disagreements with the Jewish leaders at the temple during the Feast of Tabernacles. These conflicts continue. On the last day of the feast, Jesus stood up and cried out saying, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." (John 7:37-38) Jesus was referring to the Holy Spirit who would fill the believers in the future. Next we find Jesus in conflict with the Jews about an adulterous woman and about His claim to be the Light of the World.

Scripture Passage

Read: [John 8:1-11](#)

Note: Some versions of the Bible include this passage. Other versions of the Bible include it but mention that the passage is not found in the earliest Greek manuscripts. Although we cannot be sure that John wrote this section, we can be confident that the incident sounds authentic. For that reason, and because it is a very well-known passage, we have included it and the discussion questions in our study.

Quote:

"The scribes (a group of men who copied and taught the Scriptures) and the Pharisees were anxious to trick the Lord Jesus into saying something wrong so that they would have some charge to bring against Him. They had just brought...a woman caught in the very act of adultery, and they made her stand in the middle of the crowd, probably facing Jesus. The accusation of adultery was made against this woman, and it was doubtless true. There is no reason to question that she was caught while committing this terrible sin. But where was the man? Too often in life women have been punished when men who were also guilty have gone free." [William MacDonald](#)

Do you think it is true that women have often been punished when men have gone free? Discuss. Why do you think that they did not also bring the man?

Scripture Passage: [John 8:1-11](#).

Jesus and an Adulterous Woman

1. Where did Jesus go at dawn? Who gathered around Him?
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2. Who was brought to Jesus and what were they accused of doing?

3. Why did the Jewish leaders bring this woman to Jesus?

4. Which of the following statements are true?

- A. The Jewish leaders were writing in the sand.
- B. Jesus wrote in the sand twice.
- C. Jesus asked the religious leaders where the man was.
- D. Jesus said that anyone who was sinless could throw the first stone.

5. How many people were left after Jesus wrote in the dust? Why do you think they left? Did Jesus condemn the woman? Are you and I condemned? Read [Romans 8:1-2](#) and discuss.

6. What important instruction did Jesus give to the woman?

Dispute Over Jesus' Testimony

1. How did Jesus describe Himself in verse 12? What is the difference between walking in darkness and walking in light?

2. Why do you think that the religious leaders challenged Jesus saying that His testimony was not valid? See verse 17 and Deuteronomy 19:15

3. Jesus felt His testimony was valid. Why? Could Jesus call on any other witnesses?

4. The religious leaders want to know where Jesus' father is. What do you think they were trying to get at by that question? Where was Jesus' father?

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5. Jesus was referring to God the Father in verses 19-20. Do you think the religious leaders understood this? Why did Jesus say they did not know His Father when as the Jewish religious leaders, it was their job to lead the people to God?

6. Why had the religious leaders not “seized” or arrested Jesus and what does it mean that His “hour had not yet come? When did His hour come?

Discuss:

Jesus mentions following Him in verse 12. Discuss what it means to follow Jesus. Jesus tells the religious leaders that they don’t know Him. How can we know Jesus?

Suggested Prayer: *Dear Jesus, help us to understand what it means to follow you. We want to walk in your light each and every day. Illuminate our souls so that we shine for you. Teach us how to know the Father and help us to know you more so that we might draw others to You as they see You in our lives.*



Who Were the Religious Leaders?

Pharisees	Strict group of religious Jews who advocated obedience to the most minute portions of the Jewish Law. Very influential in the synagogues.	Rejected Jesus’ claim to be Messiah because he did not follow all their traditions and associated with notoriously wicked people.
Sadducees	Wealthy, upper class, Jewish priestly party. Rejected the authority of the Bible beyond the first five books of Moses. Profited from business in the Temple. They, along with the Pharisees were one of the two major parties of the Jewish high council.	Denied the resurrection of the dead. Thought the Temple could also be used as a place to transact business.
Teachers of Religious Law	Professional interpreters of the law – who especially emphasized the traditions. Many teachers of the religious law were Pharisees.	Denied Jesus’ authority to reinterpret the law. Rejected Jesus as the Messiah because he did not obey all of their traditions.

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