



The Dynamic Gospel Study Guide – Book of John

Chapter 8

1 At the same time, Jesus sought solitude on the Mount of Olives.

2 As soon as it was daybreak, Jesus was drawn back to the Temple sanctuary, and the people were drawn to Him. It wasn't long before a large crowd had seated itself, waiting expectantly. Jesus sat down with them and opened His mouth to teach.

3 Even as He shared from God's heart with the people, the Temple record keepers and those pesky Fundamentalists dragged out a woman and threw her down on the ground at Jesus' feet. With utter disdain they loudly proclaimed her to be an unfaithful woman, caught in the act with someone who was not her husband.

4 They spared none of the juicy details, making it very clear to Jesus how guilty she really was. There was no way she was getting out of this.

5 "If we read the Law correctly, which we certainly **do**" they pompously stated, "then Moses says the woman should be stoned to death without delay. What do **You** say?"

6 These officials knew what a soft spot Jesus had for these lowlifes. They were testing Him. They figured there was no way out from a 'righteous punishment.' Jesus acted like He hadn't heard them. He just leaned over on one elbow, and started doodling in the sand with His other hand.

7 The officials, growing angry, berated Jesus. "Well? What do You say?" Jesus stopped doodling, sat up and cleared His throat. "You'll get no argument from Me. Just do it the right way. If you're going to throw 'righteous stones,' then righteous you'll have to be. So, whichever one of you has never screwed up once in his life, he gets the first strike.

8 Without so much as a glance around, Jesus returned to His doodling.

9 That deflated the gas-bags. One at a time, starting with the ones old enough to know better, they sheepishly dropped those 'righteous stones' and skulked away. The long, hovering shadows disappeared one by one. The angry circle had cleared and there was no one left but Jesus and the terrified woman.

10 After a while Jesus stood up and brushed off. He looked around. "So, ma'am. Where'd the lynch mob go? Did no one stick around to be the executioner?"

11 She finally got up the courage to answer though staring straight at the ground. "Not a single one of them is left, Lord." Jesus opened His palms. "I didn't come here to throw stones. You're pardoned. Go on! It's time to prove how wrong they are to condemn you. From now on, live a different way. You've been given a new lease on life."

12 Jesus continued His teaching right where He left off. "Whether the world wants it or not, I'm the One shining true Light into the darkness. Now you can stop stumbling around in the pitch black. Follow Me and I'll lead you out of death into real Life. And you'll be a beacon to others."

13 "Hogwash!" said the Fundamentalists who were still hanging around. "You say **You're** the 'Light of the world?' You've got nothing with which to back it up. What a liar."

14 "Oh, really?" Jesus replied. "You think I don't know what I'm talking about? You think you've got it all figured out? Fine! Then **you** tell **Me** 'where I come from' and 'where I'm going.' I'm sure the crowd would like to know. Nothing? You've got no clue what I'm capable of.

15 "You hotheads are so quick to condemn other people. I find it wise to refrain from judging anyone presumptuously. Oh, the time will come for a verdict, all right.

16 "And when it does, there will be no disputing My calls. The Father will be right there backing Me up. Remember Him? You know, the One who sent Me?"

17 "Or have you forgotten that the Law clearly states 'the combined testimony of two witnesses establishes the fact.'

18 "Of course I can speak for Myself. From what I've seen already with My own two eyes, I've got plenty I could say. And word for word, detail for detail, you'll find the Father backs Me up, one hundred percent."

19 "So," countered the officials, arms crossed. "Where is this 'Father' You speak so adamantly about? Is He going to step up and defend You right now?" Jesus just shook His head in weariness. "If you weren't so completely blind to the obvious, you'd have figured it out by now. Perfect evidence that you really never knew Him to begin with. If you can't figure Me out, He'll forever remain invisible to you."

20 The religious leaders grasped none of it. They were probably deafened by the sound of clinking coins, for Jesus made these proclamations directly in front of the Temple money room. Still, they couldn't figure out a way to finally do away with Him. In God's great plan, it still wasn't time.

21 Jesus continued. "Even after I'm through with My work and have headed home, you will still be stumbling around chasing your idea of 'Liberator.' You can't go where I'm going. You're already so wildly off the mark you'll never figure out where this was all leading, much less follow Me there, even in death. To die completely deluded. What tragedy."

22 "So He thinks we can't track Him down? the officials asked. "Can't follow where He's going? Or is He just planning to kill Himself and leave us all behind? That would save us some trouble!"

23 Jesus answered "You're stuck at the bottom of a well, head first, sucking muck. There you will stay. I've got My head on straight. And it will stay that way. Heaven sent Me and Heaven's I remain.

24 "Let Me make this as clear as I can: Your misguided, pompous arrogance is killing you. If you refuse to acknowledge who I really am, you'll die a double death."

25 "Who do You think you are?!" the officials screamed back at Him. "Only what I've told you a thousand times already. And I haven't changed from what I told you then," Jesus answered.

26 "I could spend all day accusing you to the Father, but He already knows what you're made of. It's not worth wasting My breath. My mouth is reserved for what **He** wants to tell **you**.

27 The religious leaders refused to acknowledge that Jesus was speaking for the Father. No surprise there.

28 Then Jesus said "When you should be exalting Me, you will 'lift Me up' instead. Only then will your hearts be pricked enough to admit that I am the One; that I do nothing out of selfish ambition; that I simply brought the God-breathed Truth to you.

29 "The Father sent Me, but He didn't abandon Me. His constant approval is evidence enough that I do what pleases Him."

30 The power of God was in Jesus' words. Even at this late hour many surrendered their hearts to the Truth right then and there.

31 To those new believers Jesus said "Pursue what I've already said. Mine it for all its worth. Live it. That's what My faithful students do. So be faithful to it!

32 "As a result, the Truth will no longer be a mystery to you. It will set you free to really live! Freedom from slavery!"

33 The religious crowd was indignant, turning up their noses. "We've never been slaves to anyone! We're proud descendants of Abraham. We determine our own destiny. And **You** think you're going to 'free' **us**?"

34 "That's **exactly** what I'm saying!" Jesus replied. "Any time you mess up on even the tiniest issue, you prove that you're slaves to sin.

35 "And an evil slave won't be tolerated in the palace for long. Much less should he expect an inheritance! It is the Son's eternal home and possession and He won't tolerate sin under His roof.

36 "But if the Son sets you free from sin, you'll never be its slave again.

37 "You certainly look like Abraham's children. But you spend your time plotting My murder. Doesn't look like I'm very welcome in this 'house' now, does it? And what does that show? That you know the title, but haven't read the book.

38 "I act like My Father. It would appear you're acting just like your own fathers."

39 The religious leaders spat right back "Our Father is Abraham the Great! Who's **Yours**, you loser?" Jesus ignored the barb and got in one of His own. "You act nothing like him. How can you be his children when everything you do says just the opposite?

40 "You're obsessed with My demise - can't get your minds on anything else! From Day One, I've done nothing but tell you God's honest Truth. Now the 'Abraham' nation wants none of it!

41 “Indeed. You've perfected the sins of your fathers.” Yet again, the religious leaders were aghast. “Are you calling us bastards?? We weren't 'born in sin!' No matter what You say, we're the proud inheritors of our Father Abraham and we worship no other God but his.”

42 Jesus pondered it. “Not so far off the mark, I'd say. But *if* Abraham's God was your ultimate Father, you'd have welcomed Me, for I'm His spitting image. I like being with Him. But He sent Me here to *you*, so here I am.

43 “Why can't you understand what I'm saying? Because you're deaf, that's why.

44 “And now the Devil's 'adopted' your sorry selves. You've been in his house long enough that you act just like him. He was a murderer all along and rejected the Truth at every turn. Honesty was completely foreign to him. It's one lie after another. He's the patron saint of liars.

45 “When I tell you the Truth, you're deaf to it. A lie is all you understand.

46 “If I'm the liar, then prove it. If I'm telling the Truth, then why won't you accept and follow it?

47 “Those who understand the language of Heaven hear My words, and they're completely refreshed by them. On your ears it's just mumble. You hear nails on a chalkboard and think it's music. It's the language of Hell – right where you come from.”

48 “Man, oh man,” the religious leaders replied, throwing up their hands. “It's no stretch to say this man is a total heretic and a raving lunatic to boot. If anyone's 'full of devils' it's *Him!*”

49 Jesus let them have their little tantrum, then said “Sorry folks. No demons here. Everything I say esteems My Father. You do nothing but diss Me. Guess what the Father thinks of *that*?

50 “In this world I don't demand glory and honor. Worldly kings do that. The Father is the One who deserves it.

51 “I tell you this: Anyone who takes to heart what I'm saying and willingly follows will find it impossible to die. He will glimpse eternity and pass from life to even better Life.”

52 The religious leaders were through with the pretence of patience. “We've got You now, you devil! Your lies are completely transparent. We all know Abraham died, just like the rest of the prophets. But You say “if you do what I say you'll never die.”

53 “You think you're better than them? What do You make Yourself out to be? Some kind of 'super human?’”

54 “If I say 'yes,’” Jesus replied, “it means nothing on its own. It's the Father's Word that counts. And He's saying plenty about Me. You claim Him as your own, but you're not listening when He opens *His* mouth. And He's done plenty of that already.

55 “You didn't know Him then; you don't know Him now. I do and I'm compelled to admit it, however much you would prefer that I lie instead. I know Him well enough to know what He wants. What else could I possibly do?

56 “The same Abraham you claim as 'father' looked forward with great expectation to the day *I* would be revealed. If he was here now, he'd host a great reunion celebration!”

57 The religious cabal now clenched their fists. “You're not even fifty years old, yet. And you're saying you know Abraham personally?”

58 “Absolutely!” Jesus replied. “Before Abraham could be called your father, I had to be. Everything he hoped for, *I am.*”

59 It was too much. The Fundamentalists and Temple priests scrambled for any stone they could find. They were not about to allow such blasphemy to continue for another second. But in their blind fury, Jesus slipped right out from under their noses and He left the Temple grounds.

Explain the Context:

From your reading provide a short answer to the following:

What is the theme of this chapter?	What is the BIG Idea?
What is something that surprised you?	What is this chapter <i>not</i> saying?

Take a moment to consider these questions:

- 1) Read the story of the Woman accused of adultery as if it's the first time you've read it. What are your first impressions of her? Why?
- 2) In Leviticus 20:10, the law says both the man and woman should be put to death when caught in adultery. Where do you think the man was?
- 3) What might Jesus have known about this woman to tell her to "live a different way from now on?"
- 4) In verse 12, Jesus gives us another "I AM" statement. What is it? How does He follow up that teaching?
- 5) Jesus mentions several times throughout chapter 8 that "if He were to judge, He'd have things to say". How significant is it that He chooses NOT to judge? What reason does He give for refraining from judgement?

- 6) Where is Jesus going that the Jews cannot follow?
- 7) What do you think Jesus is saying in verse 28 about being “lifted up”?
- 8) Jesus says those who commit sin are slaves to sin. How are we set free from the slavery of sin?
- 9) How are the temple leaders deflecting by continuing to accuse Jesus of having a demon?
- 10) When Jesus says, “If anyone keeps My word, he will never see death”, why does this statement set the religious leaders off?
- 11) In verse 58 Jesus makes His most bold statement yet. What is that statement?
- 12) How did the leaders respond/react to this statement?

Apply the Scripture

Write the verse that stood out to you while reading [in this translation or your favorite].

How does this verse challenge you? Does it reveal an attribute of God's character?

For further study:

- Leviticus 20:10
- Deuteronomy 22:22-24
- Exodus 3:14
- Romans 6:17-20
- Hebrews 11:13-19