

March 16, 2025

The Pharisees Caught In Hypocrisy
John 8:1-11

At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?"
John 8:2-5 (NIV)

Why is this passage in italics in my Bible?

1. The writers of the Bible were _____ to do so by the Holy Spirit. 2Pet 1:20-21
2. We don't have any of the _____ manuscripts.
3. Most scholars do not believe John 7:53-8:11 was part of John's Gospel when it was _____ written.
4. The story is missing from the _____ manuscripts, not appearing until the fifth century.

Textual Criticism: The scholarly discipline of comparing ancient biblical manuscripts to determine the most accurate wording of the original text.

5. The oldest manuscripts tend to be the most _____.
6. We have _____ manuscripts of the New Testament.
7. Many scholars believe that though the story of the woman caught in adultery isn't part of John's original text, it is _____.

What can we learn from this story?

Jesus loves us as we are but doesn't _____ us as we are. John 1:14

Jesus confronted _____ religion and its _____.
_____. Matt 23

TALK IT OVER

Because we believe that the sharing of our ideas and beliefs enhances our spiritual growth in ways teaching alone cannot - we encourage you to join a small group at Sunridge and discuss some of the following questions.

What stood out most in the message to you regarding something that you learned, challenged you, or that you disagreed with? And, in what ways can you see these truths being lived out in your relationships and life this week?

What part of textual criticism is the most discomforting to you? What part gives you more confidence in the Bible?

Read John 8:1-11 and note your personal observations of the story. Share those with the group.

What does it mean to you that Jesus was "full of grace and truth?" (John 1:14) In what ways do you experience the tension in trying to follow Jesus? How does the idea that Jesus *loves us as we are but doesn't leave us as we are*, affect you? Share stories from your life of when you've experienced that paradox.

In what ways did Jesus confront toxic religion and its purveyors in the Bible? (think of an example besides the woman in John 8) Where do you see toxic religion in our world today? What suggestions do you have for how we can confront it today?



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