

CCF Study Notes
Tuesday 7 AM Study
28 February 2006
John Chapter 8

Before beginning to read from John Chapter 8 let's spend some time in prayer, exalting and honoring God. Let's ask God to help us to:

1. **Condemn** sin without condemning the sinner;
2. **Examine** our own heart s;
3. **Know** God and know His will in Christ;
4. **Judge** not by appearance, but with righteous judgment;
5. **Follow** Jesus, being free in Christ;
6. **Know** God as our Father, and
7. **Give** Christ the preeminence which is rightly His in all things.

Once again we see conflict in this chapter. This time the conflict comes in the form of a trial of sorts. If we view the chapter from one perspective, Jesus is on trial, and the people arrive at their verdict when they take up stones to put Jesus to death. Yet from another perspective, Jesus is the judge and it is those who have come to question Jesus who are really on trial. When any person comes forward with a charge against God it is not God who is on trial, but those who bring the charges. Often I have been tempted to charge God with wrongdoing. Then I am doing what is completely wrong and God is quick to show me my error.

Notice that in verses 1 through 12 it is not really the woman who is on trial. Rather, the scribes and Pharisees seek to put Jesus on trial. Who ends up being convicted? When we pass judgment on another person we put ourselves in Jesus' place – and are sure to suffer for our presumption in passing judgment. Only Jesus, the One without sin, can pass judgment – or offer forgiveness on God's behalf.

The Pharisees bring up a point of order in verses 13 through 20, trying to discredit Jesus. Who ends up being discredited? When we set out to show that we are wiser than others – particularly within the Body of Christ – we usually end up looking like fools. There is no substitute for a real and vital relationship with God.

Jesus' sanity is called into question in verses 21 through 24, as the people voiced their fear that Jesus might hurt himself. In reality those who rejected Jesus were committing spiritual suicide. Many today scoff at believers for denying themselves the pleasures this world offers. "Get a life!" they say. Yet those who reject Jesus are the ones who have no

life – not now nor in eternity. Only Jesus offers real life, accepting Him now is the only sane thing to do.

Some accused Jesus of having an exalted opinion of Himself, that He had some kind of "God Complex". The charge backfired, as Jesus explained how He was subject to the Father in all things, and how they would understand who Jesus was only after they crucified Him. Is God with you? That's the real issue. Notice that many believed Jesus at this point! Why? (Verses 25 through 30)

Jesus now tells the new believers of the freedom they find in knowing the truth about Jesus. How does knowing the truth set us free? But now those believers accuse Jesus of insulting them by suggesting they were slaves. The people pointed to Abraham as their father. Jesus pointed out that sinners are slaves, and only Sons of God can remain forever with God – not sons of Abraham. So Jesus suggests that the people are selling themselves short when they claim racial salvation as Jews. (Verses 31 through 36)

Once again Jesus offers the first charge: that the people are a murderous lot, ignorant of God's word. The charges fly back and forth. "We are Abraham's children." "Your deeds say you are Satan's." "God is our Father" "You are not of God because You hate His Son and will not hear His word." The charges Jesus made stuck fast. The defense and counter charges seemed to have no merit. If we claim to be of God, then we will live by His word and love His Son more than life itself.

The people give their verdict: "You are a Samaritan and have a demon." Jesus gave His verdict, "I honor my Father, and you dishonor Me (And Him by extension)." Jesus promises life to those who keep his word – and by extension condemns the rest to death. Jesus goes on to reveal that He was before Abraham, so that the people would not be innocent in their accusations. The people to up stones to execute the death sentence. But Jesus would not have His life taken from Him by an angry mob. Instead He would give His life freely for many.

Does the thought of Jesus being involved in this violent argument with an angry mob change your image of Jesus? It should. Jesus wanted to make clear to every person who it was that they came against. Jesus did not remain an infant. He grew up to be a man who could take on the world's most opinionated mob.

Perhaps you never really thought about who Jesus is. Take some time to prayerfully review this chapter, praising God for who Jesus is and what He did and said. Are you ready to obey His word? And how important is His word?

Do we need to defend Jesus against the accusations people bring against Him today? Or is Jesus able to defend Himself without us? =