

Late Judean Ministry—A Woman Caught in Adultery (October 32)

John 7:53–8:11

7:53 [[Everyone went to his home.

8:1 But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

2 Early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people were coming to Him; and He sat down and *began* to teach them.

3 The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery, and having set her in the center *of the court*,

4 they said to Him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in adultery, in the very act.

5 Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women; what then do You say?”

[cf. [Lev 20:10](#); [Deut 22:22–24](#)]

6 They were saying this, testing Him, so that they might have grounds for accusing Him. But Jesus stooped down and with His finger wrote on the ground.

7 But when they persisted in asking Him, He straightened up, and said to them, “He who is without sin among you, let him *be the* first to throw a stone at her.”

8 Again He stooped down and wrote on the ground.

9 When they heard it, they *began* to go out one by one, beginning with the older ones, and He was left alone, and the woman, where she was, in the center *of the court*.

10 Straightening up, Jesus said to her, “Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?”

11 She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more.”]]

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Textual Notes

- 1) The story of the woman caught in adultery is separated from the rest of the text in the NASB version by double brackets. This is done to visually indicate doubt on the part of most scholars that this story is part of John’s original gospel manuscript. For a good discussion of this issue, see Andreas J. Kostenberger, *John: Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2004), pp. 245–249.¹

¹ For a more thorough treatment of recent research, see Chris Keith, “Recent and Previous Research on the *Pericope Adulterae* (John 7.53–8.11),” *Currents in Biblical Research* 6.3 (2008), 377–404. The Bibliography section of the article is excellent.