

1. Introduction & Setting: Jesus Teaching in the Temple (7:53-8:2)
 - a. The Feast of Tabernacles has just concluded (7:53).
 - i. The Feast of Tabernacles looked back on the time when God provided for Israel in the wilderness with the miraculous provision of water and the daily provision of manna.
 - ii. The Feast of Tabernacles also looked forward to the time that God would fulfill His kingdom promises made to Israel; it was also a time that Israel prayed for rain and God's blessing on their crops.
 - iii. Jesus concluded this feast by announcing Himself as the fulfillment of this feast.
 1. He is the Bread of Life
 2. He is the Water of Life
 3. He is God with Us; God dwelling among His people
 - b. The Religious Elite rejected Jesus's claims (7:53-8:1).
 - i. Everyone departed to their homes.
 - ii. Jesus went into the Mount of Olives, where He often retreated to spend time with God in prayer.
 - c. The next morning, Jesus boldly returned to the temple to teach the people, right under the noses of those who had just rejected Him (8:2).
2. The Conflict: The Misuse of the Law of Moses (8:3-6)
 - a. The Scribes and Pharisees test Jesus by bringing Him a woman accused of adultery (3).
 - i. Scribes played a critical role in Judaism; in addition to copying the Scriptures, they also functioned as lawyers, theologians, teachers, and jurors.
 - ii. Pharisees were religious zealots who used religion as a means of political power and influence.
 - iii. The woman accused of adultery is unnamed; it appears that she has been "arrested" and forcefully brought to the temple to stand trial.
 - b. The Scribes and Pharisees begin by making their accusation (4).
 - i. They accuse the woman of being caught in the act of adultery.
 - ii. They appeal to Jesus as "Teacher." The one really on trial is Jesus; they are testing Him so they can look for an opportunity to condemn Him and His teachings.
 - c. The Scribes and Pharisees appeal to the Law of Moses (5).
 - i. They are desperately trying to use the Law of Moses to expose and condemn Jesus and His teachings.
 - ii. In reality, they are not fully following the Scriptures, because the law commands both the man and the woman to be judged.
 - iii. Leviticus 20:10 "And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbor's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death."
 - d. The Scribes and Pharisees are using this situation to seek grounds to prosecute Jesus (6a).
 - i. Tragically, Jesus is still on trial today.
 - ii. A majority of Jewish people reject Jesus's claims to be the Son of God.
 - iii. Many self-proclaimed Christians today also sit in judgment of Jesus and His message.
 1. Many take issue with Jesus's claims to be the exclusive way to God (John 14:6).
 2. Jesus died for all, but all religions do not lead to God!
 3. Matthew 7:13-14 "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."
 4. Jesus hasn't hidden the way; He's the Light of the World! Instead, people choose the dark path because they love "darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil" (John 3:19).
 - e. Application: Beware of using the Word of God to leverage God.

3. The Resolution: The Demonstration of Christ's Authority (8:6b-8)
 - a. Just as the 10 commandments were written in stone by the finger of God, Jesus answers their accusation by writing His answer with His finger (6b).
 - i. By stooping down and writing with His finger in the dirt of the Temple courtyard, Jesus is demonstrating that His words have the same weight as the Law of Moses.
 - ii. Jesus is not in conflict with the Law of Moses, He is the Author of it!
 - b. Jesus answers their pathetic questions with a command (7).
 - i. Jesus commands the one without sin to cast the first stone.
 1. What this implies, is none are without sin (Romans 3:10).
 2. What this also implies is that the Law of Moses condemns us all (Romans 3:23).
 - ii. Jesus is the only sinless One Who is worthy to sit in judgment over sinners.
 1. Those who try to justify themselves by using the Law will ultimately be exposed.
 2. All of us stand guilty before Him, deserving of His judgment (Romans 6:23; Revelation 21:8).
 - c. Jesus again stoops down and writes on the ground (8).
 - i. Jesus is underscoring the fact that He is eclipsing the authority of the Law of Moses.
 1. Jesus gave the Law.
 2. Only Jesus perfectly fulfills the Law's demands.
 3. Sinners cannot judge Jesus; Jesus judges sinners.
 - ii. Jesus is the Author of the Law, and His finger is the very finger of God.
 1. Exodus 32:16 "And the tables were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, graven upon the tables."
 2. The Scribes and Pharisees are unknowingly confronting the Author of the Law that they are twisting it to accomplish their own purposes.
 - d. Application: Beware of spurning Christ's authority over your life.
4. Conclusion: The Application of the Law of Christ (8:9-11)
 - a. Jesus's response silenced His accusers and dispersed the crowd (9).
 - i. None could withstand Jesus's piercing words, and all left beginning with the oldest.
 - ii. Jesus was left alone emphasizing that only He was without sin.
 - iii. Jesus is still kneeling, a beautiful picture of His love and mercy.
 - b. Jesus addresses the woman with compassion and authority (10-11).
 - i. Jesus rises as the perfect Judge and addresses the woman (10).
 1. John 5:22 "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:"
 - ii. Verse 11 makes it clear that the woman is not innocent.
 - iii. Jesus declares that He does not condemn her, even though He has the authority and right to do so (cf. 5:25-27).
 - iv. Jesus frees her with the command to sin no more.
 1. Jesus not only sets us free from the penalty of sin.
 2. Jesus also sets us free from the bondage of sin (cf. 31-36).
 - c. Application: Beware of abusing the grace that Christ extends to you.

Conclusion:

1. Are you trying to use the Word of God to leverage God to get what you think you deserve?
2. Have you submitted yourself to Christ's authority?
3. Has Jesus freed you from the penalty of sin? Is Jesus freeing you from the bondage of sin?