

Take a moment right now to write down the thoughts going through your head so that you can focus on God's Word. What are you worried about, distracted by, need to get done, etc.

Now write down three things about your family you are thankful for.

We will read through and meditate on John 8:1-30 today. In this portion of Scripture, Jesus is interacting with the Pharisees and religious leaders as many people are looking on. Today, this would be like Jesus having a conversation with different political and governmental leaders who are the ones that set laws and the way life will function. The religious leaders want to find ways to trap Jesus so they can then have a lawful reason to have Him killed because they feel like their power is being challenged by Him. The religious leaders, like us many times, miss the point that Jesus isn't trying to condemn them or take away anything from them, but to show He wants a relationship with them. As you read and meditate today, think about how Jesus is continually trying to tell the leaders who He is, not just who they think He is.

John 7:53–8:11 ⁵³They went each to his own house, ¹but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. ²Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. ³The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst ⁴they said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. ⁵Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" ⁶This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. ⁷And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." ⁸And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. ⁹But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. ¹⁰Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" ¹¹She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."

*Note: the biblical law said death should happen for both people in an adulterous relationship (Lev. 20:10). The religious leaders hoped to have Jesus fall into a legal trap by having Him say the woman should be stoned and then they would ask about why the man should not be stoned also. If they could trap Him, they could have legal ground to kill Him.

- 1) We could easily read over verses 1 and 2 with no real thought, but go back and read them again. What do you think Jesus did on the Mount of Olives by Himself? How did this help prepare Jesus for what He would daily face?

- 2) How would your daily life be different if you spent time with God every day to hear from Him?

- 3) From verse 2, how did the scribes and Pharisees feel about Jesus teaching people?

- 4) We are not told what Jesus wrote on the ground, but it helps to convict the conscience of the religious leaders. What could Jesus have written?

- 5) What was the heart of the issue for Jesus? Why did the older leaders leave first?

- 6) What do you learn about how Jesus deals with sin and people from this story?

- 7) How does this story impact your view of how Jesus deals with sin in your life?

John 8:12-20 ¹²Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." ¹³So the Pharisees said to him, "You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true." ¹⁴Jesus answered, "Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going." ¹⁵You judge according to

the flesh; I judge no one. ¹⁶Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. ¹⁷In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true. ¹⁸I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me.” ¹⁹They said to him therefore, “Where is your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.” ²⁰These words he spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple; but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

****Note:** In verses 13-18 the Pharisees accuse Jesus of lying when He says He is God, because there is no one else who can be a witness to this. The Old Testament Law required two witnesses to establish something as a fact (Deut. 17:6). Jesus tells them there are two witnesses to it—Jesus Himself and God the Father.

- 8) This is the second “I am” statement by Jesus; John is helping the reader know who Jesus is with simple, but meaningful statements. Fill in the blanks from verse 12: “I am the _____ of the _____.”
 - a. Go back and read John 6:35 and fill in the blank: “I am the _____ of _____.”
- 9) The relationship between the Pharisees and Jesus is cast as one between light and darkness. Why are the Pharisees living in darkness when they are trying so hard to follow all of the Old Testament rules? We put down the Pharisees a lot, but how can we be like them too?
- 10) Read verses 15-16 again; then go back and read John 3:17. How does this verse confirm what Jesus says in verses 15-16 of chapter 8?
- 11) From verses 16-19, we read Jesus calling God His Father and don’t think much about it. How would the Pharisees have heard it and thought about Jesus saying this?
- 12) What do we learn about Jesus’ dependency on God the Father from these verses? How can you be more dependent on God during this time of uncertainty?

- 15) The Pharisees hearts were hard and their minds were blinded to who Jesus was. How can we be like this during this time of feeling like we are out of control of our own lives?
- 16) From verse 28, what is Jesus referring to?
- 17) From verse 29, what encouragement, hope and direction can you take from this verse during this time of uncertainty and disappointments?
- 18) From verse 30, even though many did not believe, there were many who did believe! Who can you tell about Jesus' love for them today?