

Digging Deeper: John 7:53, 8:1-11

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Day 1

Read through and pray over John 7:53, 8:1-11.

In John 8:1-6, the scribes and Pharisees present this woman to Jesus not with sincere intent to follow God's laws but rather with selfish intent to test or trap Jesus. Previously in John, we have seen other attempts to test Jesus (John 2:18 and 6:30). When we try to test God, it's creation trying to tell the Creator what to do and how to do it. We often try to put human limitations and expectations on God. Consider and pray that we might not require God to reveal himself on our terms but rather draw close through prayer and scripture to see how God is already revealing himself.

Day 2

Read John 8:6. There are many thoughts as to what Jesus was writing as he stooped down. From scripture though, we can clearly see that there was a significant delay before Jesus responded to his detractors. They actually asked the question a second time before they got a response. Read James 1:19. Even knowing what the scribes and Pharisees were intending, Jesus demonstrated patience and constraint. How can you practice patience and constraint with your detractors today?

Day 3

Read John 8:7-8. Jesus finally responds by saying "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first." Jesus is not saying that we should never hold people accountable for their actions, rather the emphasis is placed on self-examination. Their intent was not pure. Read Matthew 7:5. Opinions and judgment of others are so freely expressed on social media and other ways all around us. Pray and consider how can you practice an inward focus that is then reflected out towards others.

Day 4

Read John 8:9. The people were convicted and they left. The scripture notes that it was the eldest members of the group who departed first. These wise individuals led, and the others followed suit. Read Proverbs 19:20 and James 3:17. What is wisdom from above? Do you have someone you look to for wisdom? Do you reflect wisdom from above to those who look to you as an example?

Day 5

Read John 8:10-11. After dispersing his detractors, Jesus, the only perfect one without sin who could indeed cast a stone, instead extends his arm of grace and mercy. Take time today to just thank God for grace and mercy. Self-reflect in order to magnify how wonderful his grace and mercy is towards you.

Day 6

Read John 8:11. Jesus tells the woman to go and sin no more. Grace and mercy have already been given. It is not conditional based on actions. As we praise God for his unconditional love, grace, and mercy, let us all be moved with an intent to sin no more.