***John 8* *“Truth that sets you Free” \_* \_**

This chapter has two parts, both of which end with a person escaping from being stoned in public.

The first person was the woman caught in adultery

The second person was Jesus when he confronted the Pharisees with the fact that He is from God and they are not.

I want to look at the second part first, and then talk about the woman caught in adultery.

**John 8:12-59**

**12**When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

This is a beautiful statement by Jesus. It resonates with John’s introduction of Him in chapter 1.

***John 1:9&11 “9****The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world...* ***11****He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.”*

This is exactly what is taking place among the Jewish leaders here in chapter 8.

**13**The Pharisees challenged him, “Here you are, appearing as your own witness; your testimony is not valid.”

**14**Jesus answered, “Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where I came from and where I am going. But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going. **15**You judge by human standards; I pass judgment on no one. **16**But if I do judge, my decisions are true, because I am not alone. I stand with the Father, who sent me. **17**In your own Law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is true. **18**I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father, who sent me.”

**19**Then they asked him, “Where is your father?”

“You do not know me or my Father,” Jesus replied. “If you knew me, you would know my Father also.”

Jesus is confronting the Pharisees once again. He is very forthright and even provocative in this exchange, because He knows that they are the ones that are considered to be the authorities on what is of God and what is not, yet they themselves do not know God, and Jesus proves it.

Jesus was very specific when He spoke about God, He calls Him “My Father”.

**20**He spoke these words while teaching in the temple courts near the place where the offerings were put. Yet no one seized him, because his hour had not yet come.

(Jesus was always precisely on God’s timetable, It was not God’sappointed time for him to be arrested and crucified yet, so it didn’t happen.)

Interestingly, this took place in the temple courts. This is the very place Jesus was found when He went missing at 12 years old. His parents had traveled from Nazareth to Jerusalem, on the return trip they noticed that he wasn’t there.

**Luke 2:46&49 “**After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions… **49**“Why were you searching for me?” he asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in my *Father’s house?”*

He continues His dispute with the Pharisees,

**21**Once more Jesus said to them, “I am going away, and you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I go, you cannot come.”

**22**This made the Jews ask, “Will he kill himself? Is that why he says, ‘Where I go, you cannot come’?”

**23**But he continued, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. **24**I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins.”

**25**“Who are you?” they asked.

“Just what I have been telling you from the beginning,” Jesus replied. **26**“I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is trustworthy, and what I have heard from him I tell the world.”

**27**They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father. **28**So Jesus said, “When you have lifted upthe Son of Man, then you will know that I am he and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. **29**The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.”

“Lifted up”, this is referring to the day when He is lifted up on the cross. The amplified Bible says in John 12:32 “when I am lifted up from the earth [on the cross], will draw all *people* to Myself”

**30**Even as he spoke, *many believed in him.***31**To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. **32**Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

“you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” These words of Jesus have become cliché in society. However Jesus prefaced this statement with “IF you hold to my teaching…”. Truth in and of itself does not set you free, but when. you are revealed the eternal truth of God’s Word by Jesus, then it does set you free indeed. It frees you from the deception of the enemy and the falsehoods that most of the world is bound with. Popular phrase years ago:

**NO JESUS, NO TRUTH**

**KNOW JESUS, KNOW TRUTH**

**33**They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?”

**34**Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, *everyone who sins is a slave to sin*. **35**Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. **36***So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed*. **37**I know that you are Abraham’s descendants. Yet you are looking for a way to kill me, because you have no room for my word. **38**I am telling you what I have seen in the Father’s presence, and you are doing what you have heard from *your father*.”

“Whom the Son sets free, is free indeed”. Free from the condemnation that comes from sin. Free from the guilt and shame. But also free from the deceptive grip it has on our lives. Because we know the truth of Jesus, that truth sets us free, cancelling out the lies that keep us from being free.

They then try to convince Jesus that they are the true sons of God because their ancestor was Abraham;

**39**“Abraham is our father,” they answered.

“If you were Abraham’s children,” said Jesus, “then you would do what Abraham did. **40**As it is, you are looking for a way to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. *Abraham did not do such things*. **41**You are doing the works of *your own father.”*

“We are not illegitimate children,” they protested. “The only Father we have is God himself.”

**42**Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me. **43**Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. **44**You belong to your father, *the devil*, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. **45**Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me! **46**Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don’t you believe me? **47**Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.”

Jesus knew the absolute truth from God and spoke it. Those who received it and believed were given the right to become children of God, those who rejected were not. By trying to kill Jesus for speaking truth, they clearly were doing the very thing the Devil does, kill, steal and destroy.

**48**The Jews answered him, “Aren’t we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?” **49**“I am not possessed by a demon,” said Jesus, “but I honor my Father and you dishonor me. **50**I am not seeking glory for myself; but there is one who seeks it, and he is the judge. **51**Very truly I tell you, whoever obeys my word will never see death.”

**52**At this they exclaimed, “Now we know that you are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet you say that whoever obeys your word will never taste death. **53**Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?”

**54**Jesus replied, “If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. **55**Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, *I would be a liar like you*, but I do know him and obey his word. **56**Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.”

**57**“You are not yet fifty years old,” they said to him, “and you have seen Abraham!” **58**“Very truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, *I am*!” **59**At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

When Jesus identified himself as “I AM”, He knew whatHe was doing. It was common knowledge among Jews that “I AM” is the holy omnipresent name that God called himself on Mount Sinai when He spoke to Moses from the burning bush. Moses did not know what to call Him, so He asked.

**Exodus 3:14** “This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you’”

By calling himself the “I AM”, before Abraham was born, He was clearly and provocatively elevating Himself as equal to God. The Pharisees very predictably picked up stones to kill Him right there on the spot, but Jesus slipped away.

We live in a society where if we speak the absolute *truth* about sin, salvation and eternal damnation, some will receive the truth and the truth will set them free. Others will pick up proverbial rocks and try to kill us. Never stop believing in the truth, holding to the truth, and speaking the truth in love. The truth will set you, and others free.

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[Note: this portion of John is not found in the earliest manuscripts, (similar to Mark 16), but it is found in most manuscripts. For that reason it is often bracketed or italicized]

**THE ADULTEROUS WOMAN**

**John 8:1-11 *1”****but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.****2****At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them.* ***3****The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group* ***4****and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery.* ***5****In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women.* *Now what do you say?”* ***6****They were using this question as a trap,* *in order to have a basis for accusing him.*

*But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger.* ***7****When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone* *at her.”* ***8****Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.*

***9****At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there.* ***10****Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”* ***11****“No one, sir,” she said.* *“Then neither do I condemn you,”* *Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”*

**Recap:**

1. They brought the woman caught in adultery to Jesus. She did not plead innocent.
2. They cited the Law of Moses that does say it is a crime punishable by death.
3. They tried to get Jesus to oppose The Law so that they can accuse him of disregarding the Torah.
4. He wrote something unknown in the sand and then stood up and said, “*He who is without sin, let him cast the first stone*”. Then He continued writing in the sand again.
5. Each accuser from oldest to youngest, one-by-one walked away leaving no one there but the woman.
6. He asked “Woman, where are your accusers, has no one condemned you?”
7. She replied “No one Lord”
8. He said, “Neither do I condemn you, GO AND SIN NO MORE”

The woman was caught in the very act of adultery. They did not need to consult Jesus about what should be done with her. Moses was clear in Lev.20:10. (Actually both the man and woman were to be stoned, *where was the man???)*

Jesus moved with compassion and grace, knew their hypocrisy, and exposed them. Perhaps his writing in the sand convicted them of their own sin, so when he said, “*He who is without sin, cast the first stone”, they all went away.*

When she told Him that no one was left to condemn her, he spoke the words *“Neither do I condemn you, GO AND SIN NO MORE.*

He wanted her to be free from this sin and made two things clear in this statement. He did not condemn her, but he did not cover up the sin that she was guilty of either.

The Holy Spirit does this to us. He doesn’t *condemn*, he *convicts*.

The Enemy doesn’t *convict*, He *condemns*. There is a big difference.

Conviction empowers us to turn away from our sin,

Condemnation keeps us buried in our sin.

Example:

* When we lie - The Holy Spirit **convicts** you and says; *“You lied”. So that you’ll repent and be forgiven and set free from it.*
* The Enemy **condemns** you and tells you that “*you are a Liar*”; so that you will identify yourself with your sin, being enslaved to it, being powerless against it.

**John 16:13** “The Spirit of truth will guide you into all the truth.”

We all face this from time to time. Don’t be *condemned* by the Devil,

but DO let the Spirit *convict* you and guide you into all truth.

**This is the truth that sets us free, and, whom the son sets free, is free indeed!**