

SERIES: Gospel of John
Neither Do I Condemn You
John 8:1-11

The Science of Textual Criticism and John 8:1-11

- **Reasons why scholars doubt this story is original:**
 - The story is missing from all the Greek manuscripts of John before the **5th** century.
 - All early church fathers skip this passage in commenting on John and pass directly from John 7:52 to 8:12.
 - The text flows nicely from 7:52 to 8:12 if you leave out the story.
 - No Eastern Church father cites the passage before the **10th** century when dealing with this Gospel.
 - When the story starts to appear in manuscript copies of the Gospel of John, it shows up in three different places other than here (after 7:36; 7:44; and 21:25), and in one manuscript of Luke, it shows up after 21:38.
 - The style and vocabulary is more unlike the rest of John's Gospel than any other paragraph in the Gospel.
- **How did we get our Bible?**
 - The New Testament was originally written in **Greek**.
 - The first printed New Testament was published by Erasmus and came off the printing press in **1516**.
 - Before this, for 1500 years the manuscripts of the NT were passed down through handwritten **copies**.
 - **None** of the original NT manuscripts exists today.
 - However, there are over **5800** manuscripts which exist today in four different forms:
 - Uncials- Manuscripts with all **capital** Greek letters. (322)
 - Minuscules- Manuscripts with **small** Greek letters. (2,907)
 - Papyri- Very early manuscripts written on a special paper-like material from the Papyrus plant. (127)
 - Lectionaries- Collections of biblical texts for reading in public worship. (2,445)
- **Textual Criticism**- the science of studying manuscripts to decide what the original biblical documents contained.
 - Because there are so many copies, there also exist many **variations**.
 - Because we have so many copies, we can know with **certainty** what the original text said.
- **Remember:**
 - These variations are minor details and do not threaten our **doctrine**. The meaning of the text is unchanged.
 - God's sovereign act to protect His Word in the Scriptures for 2,000 years should cause us to **worship**.
 - God guarded the **translation** of the Scriptures to keep them from corruption.
 - God guided the **transmission** of the Scriptures to keep from destruction.
 - Though not original in John's gospel, we can know this story's main point is true based on other Scriptures.

The Woman Caught in Adultery (7:53-8:11)

- The Pharisees tried to trap Jesus.
 - If Jesus rejected the Law and forgave the woman, his **credibility** would be gone.
 - If Jesus upheld the Law and condemned the woman, his **compassion** would be questioned.
- Instead, Jesus turned the tables:
 - The accusers walked away **condemned**.
 - The accused walked away **redeemed**.
- Jesus forgives the woman.
 - Jesus does not **ignore** sin.
 - Jesus does not **excuse** sin.
- Jesus frees the woman.
 - God's forgiveness does not give us a reason to keep sinning. (1 John 3:6-9)
 - God's grace gives us a reason to **stop**. (Romans 6:1-2)
- Jesus radically redefines God's righteousness on the basis of **grace**.
 - He desires **mercy** over callous, legalistic, self-righteous obedience. (Matthew 9:13)
 - Pursuing holiness apart from an experience of God's grace leads to heartless hypocrisy.
 - Come to God for grace...
 - And seek to sin no more.

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