

John Ch 8:1-20

“Go And Sin No More.”

I want to give you four words today as we prepare to dive headlong into this ch that will hopefully serve to place a bit of a handle on this ch overall that you might get a little bit better grip on it as you look over it and study it on your own. and These are the words that *we're* going to be using to highlight this ch as we go through it and consider the text together, #1 Accusation, #2 Anticipation, #3 Clarification, and #4 Revelation. Now I'm sure that should we give more *contemplation*, or perhaps upon closer *examination* (or if I were just better with my *articulation*) that we could come up with an *illustration*, or perhaps through *collaboration* we could present a more detailed list for the *information* found in this chapter. But for us, for today, four words.

So for those of you who take notes, if you want to maybe place these words in your margin somewhere relative to the verses that they represent, again they are. #1 Vs 1-20, “Accusation,” and it's here that we find the religious leaders coming against Jesus once again and they're bringing accusation against a woman who's been caught in the act of adultery, and they're *looking* to somehow bring accusation against Him depending upon how He seeks to handle the situation. Then they seek to accuse Him of an invalid witness, and even of being born of an illicit relationship between Him mom and another man of whom they don't know, and they're just doing everything they can do to try and accuse and discredit Him.

#2 Vs 21-30 and for these vs I've selected the word, “Anticipation,” because here we find Jesus anticipating His return to the Father, we see His anticipation of both the cross, the ascension, His return to Heaven, and then also He anticipates the results of those who die refusing to believe in His deity, and His sacrifice for their sins, and they'll die in their sins and where He is, they cannot come (and we talked about that a little bit last time there in vs 34 of ch 7).

#3 Vs 31-47, “Clarification,” Jesus makes it real clear what it means to be His disciple, and to abide in Him, to be free in Him vs a slave to sin, He seeks to clear up for them their confusion on what it means to be sons of Abraham, and that it has nothing to do with a physical lineage. You can come from the physical descent of Abraham himself and still be of the seed of Satan. and So there's some clarification going on there.

Then finally #4 Vs 48-59, “Revelation,” as Jesus once again reveals to them His eternal nature, the eternal life that's found only in Him and how that before Abraham ever was, “I Am” which as you well know is the name of God as found in the OT there in the book of Exodus. The eternally ever-present One who becomes what we may need, be it guidance, Jesus would say, “I Am the Good Shepherd.”

If you find yourself still hungry and unsatisfied having taken in the things of this world, to you Jesus says, “I Am the bread of life, he who comes to Me shall *never* hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.” Or if you just feel like you’re in the dark, as we’ll see today Jesus would say, “I Am the light of the world.” “I Am, that I Am” Jesus Christ is the ever present eternal God come in the flesh to give His life as ransom for the sins of the world.

One more quick observation and then we’ll jump in. In the book of Colossians Paul speaks there in Ch 2 about various OT happenings, festivals, Sabbaths etc, of which he says they were merely a foreshadowing of the substance, which is Christ. Or to understand that another way, all of those happenings were simply speaking of and point to Jesus Christ, He was the fulfillment of them all. I want you to see how careful John has been to reveal to us that reality.

Here in Ch 8, as well as with the last 2 Ch there are 3 major references to 3 primary realities for the ch of Israel in their days of the wilderness wanderings, 3 things that were life to them. Manna, water from the rock, and that pillar of fire that would lead them, and give them light by night. In Ch 6 Jesus said that He was the true bread come down from Heaven, not the manna. That manna didn’t truly “save” anyone, He’s the one who gives life, in Ch 7 Jesus said, if anyone thirsts, let them come to Him and drink, that rock didn’t provide true living waters, Jesus fills us to overflowing. and Then finally in this ch, Jesus cries out, “I am the Light of the world.” That pillar of fire was a limited light, which served to give direction only to a limited people; I’m here to give direction and light to the world. and So Jesus stands and tells us that He’s fulfilling those foreshadowing’s, they were speaking of Him, and He is the fulfillment of that which those things foreshadowed, or spoke of and pointed to.

Well, the Feast of Tabernacles is over as we approach Ch 8, and as we finished off last time and as we see there in vs 53 of ch 7, after quite the heated division over who Jesus is everyone went to his own house.

Vs1

Why? 2 Reasons, apparently no one received Him, or invited them into *their* home, but then 2^{ndly} and I suppose primarily because He *had no home* of His own. You remember when Jesus was teaching on the cost of discipleship, and what it would entail to follow Him? and He was always seeking to make it real clear that to follow Him wasn’t the easy out, or the escape route from problems in this life, some of the most basic needs that we think we have weren’t even a reality in His own life. How much less His followers? and So He’s out there teaching and He prepares to depart in this boat and go to the other side and, “*Then a certain scribe came and said to Him, ‘Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.’*”
Matt 8:19-20

In other words, “Buddy you better consider carefully your commitment to Me because when times get tough we can’t even go back to My pad to air out. I have no pad!” and Here we see that in a very real sense, everyone else was going home, Jesus didn’t go home, why? Because He had no home, at least in this world, because though He was in the world He was not of this world, and so He didn’t send His roots down too deep into the things of this world.

Kept a light touch regarding the things of this life, and let me just encourage you to do the same. Keep a light touch concerning the things of this world, because this world isn’t your home either if you know Jesus Christ and have given your heart to Him. Now I’m not saying don’t buy a house, or seek to earn a good living, the bible says, “*A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children.*” Prov 13:22 So lets seek the balance of God’s will for our lives understanding that wealth makes no one more spiritual, nor does it mean that God favors you above anyone else, God is no respecter of persons. But yet to the other extreme as the pendulum swings back, let’s not think that to have nothing, and to lead an ascetic lifestyle makes one more spiritual, or somehow maybe closer to God. The point in even observing this fact of Jesus’ life is to encourage you not to become overly attached to the things of this world, because the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches can choke the Word in your life, and cause you to become unfruitful. Keep things in their proper perspective, and priority, which takes us to vs 2.

Vs 2

Now last time we pointed out and emphasized how we’ve seen the pattern in Jesus’ life of teaching the word of God to the people of God, and how we need to be consistently taught the word of God, the whole counsel, Genesis to Revelation, line by line, vs by vs, chapter by chapter. Why? So that we might get the totality of the counsel of God’s Word as it was intended in it’s context lest we get out of balance by focusing on one thing at the expense of another, we need it all, like a well balanced meal.

But what I want you to see in this vs (even though our primary sense of these vs revolves around a # of accusations) is Jesus’ *dedication*. “*Early* in the morning He came to the temple.” Jesus gave the 1st priority of His day to the Father, and this particular words that’s translated, “Early in the morning” speaks of the rising of the sun, so that before the sun was even coming up, Jesus was up and headed toward the temple so that by day break He was there. Ps 63:1-2 says, “*O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory.*” and Again, “*With my soul I have desired You in the night, Yes, by my spirit within me I will seek You early.*” Isa 26:9 It just doesn’t matter, morning noon or night, Lord I’m seeking *after* you, I’m available and open *to* You, and wanting to be used *by* You.

Again I’m not trying to say that it’s more spiritual to seek the Lord in the morning as opposed to any other time of the day, but we’re talking here about the 1st fruits of our lives. So

many times when we think of 1st fruits we think perhaps about our finances and the giving of the 1st fruits of our increase, my God before my government, or before my bills, or whatever. and Sure it's right that we offer to God the 1st fruits of our increase and what He entrusts to us, but I think we stop way shallow if we limit the term "1st fruits" to money. Here Jesus is giving to the Father the 1st fruits of His day, of His time, of His waking moments, we should learn to seek the Lord early. and Not just early in the morning though that's great if you're able to, but early in that circumstance, or that situation that has you in a bind or stressed out, quit trying to cope with it and then finally turn it over to the Lord when there's nothing else that you can do. Give it to Him early, seek Him in the matter early, Jesus availed Himself early to the Father, gave Him the priority in His life.

Vs3-5

Now we have here sort of a combination of things happening, and they're looking for an accusation sorta thru intimidation. They're putting this situation up in His face and seeking to impel Him on the horns of a dilemma. But there are already some subtle, or perhaps not so subtle cracks in their armor here. Obviously I wouldn't have caught them but in hindsight thru the eyes of the Lord and seeing the way He handled it, they're crystal clear. They think they have an airtight case here, a catch 22, and no matter what He says, He can't win, He's between that proverbial rock and a hard place. and They've been trying all this time to devalue Him in the public eye and discredit His claims and now they think they have the perfect premise, a no win situation for Him.

How so? Because they're place Him into a position of conflict with either Moses, or the people and the government of Rome, either way they win. Because if He sides with Moses and says, well the Law does demand execution (by the way it didn't demand stoning, it demanded execution but stoning wasn't specifically mentioned as the way execution was to be meted out and I'll show you that in a moment.) But if He sides with Moses it works against Him in 2 ways, #1 It sets Him against those who need Him the most, He's created His whole ministry around hanging out with prostitutes and tax collectors, He's become known as the friend of sinners. Not coming to save the righteous but the sinners, not here to heal those who are well, but those who are sick. and If now He pronounces capital punishment upon this woman, then anyone who's ever done something they shouldn't have (which is everyone) will be radically reserved about coming to Him, if they will at all. Because, "Man He's not for us, He's against us, if He finds out what's gone on in my life, I'll be condemned for sure." and So it'll send a ripple through humanity and those whom He's there to minister to, that if there's sin in your life, He'll place your neck across the chopping block.

Also if He sides with the Law, then He sets Himself against Roman rule, because Rome had taken the right of capital punishment away from the Jews, it was only for them to decide on such cases. So He could be cited as encouraging rebellion against Roman rule, yet on the other

hand if He says, “Hey, I know the law says that, but we’re under extenuating circumstances here, and so in this case, just let her go.” Now He’s placed Himself *above* or even *against* the Law of Moses, and if He’s truly been sent from God then there’s no way that He can deny or encourage disobedience to the Law. So you see, He can’t win. and I hate loaded questions like this, these people don’t want to know the right thing do to, this question is designed to entrap Him and derail Him as a man of God. and There are some people who aren’t interested in right and wrong, or really seeking the heart of God on a matter, they just want to entrap and entangle you in no win situation to try and prove their point, and that’s what’s going on here.

How can I say that so confidently? (Well 1st of all because vs 6 tells us that), but also the reality is, if they were truly interested in doing the right thing, they’d have brought the man with them as well. They said they caught her in the *very act*, and it’s impossible that one should commit physical adultery with out another individual. and The Law was clear that it was a capital offense binding both parties. Lev 20:10, “*The man who commits adultery with another man's wife, he who commits adultery with his neighbor's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress, shall surely be put to death.*” and Again, “*If a man is found lying with a woman married to a husband, then both of them shall die -- the man that lay with the woman, and the woman; so you shall put away the evil from Israel.*” Deut 22:22 Now it doesn’t say how they were to be put to death, in Ezekiel’s day it seems as though they would stone them with stones and then run them through with the sword (Ezek 16), but the Law didn’t specifically state stoning for adultery. But my point here is that if they were truly seeking to do God’s will, or obey God’s Word in the matter, they’d have brought the man, but he’s conveniently not there, and because of that there are those who speculate he was in on this and it was all a set up from the beginning. Because how else would these peeping Tom’s know where to be and what time to be looking through the key hole to catch them in the very act?

So these guys are looking to pit Him against either Moses, or the people, or Roman Rule, they don’t care how it happens, they just want Him disqualified and out of the way. *Moses* says this; what do *You* say? So they’re putting Him in conflict, and contrast with Moses and the Law.

Vs6

Did you realize that this account is the only record of Jesus every writing anything. More books have been written for or against or about Him than any other individual who ever walked the face of the earth, yet He Himself as an individual never wrote anything that we have record of. Even in this He wrote in the dust that was there on the temple floor so that it would be readily eschewed and erased.

What did He write, don’t know, no one knows, there’s tons of theories, and I have one as well, and I’ll share it though most of you probably know it. But there are those who wonder if He wasn’t writing scripture down Jer 17:13 says, “*O LORD, the hope of Israel, All who forsake You shall be ashamed. ‘Those who depart from Me Shall be written in the earth, Because they have forsaken the LORD, The fountain of living waters.’*” So perhaps He was writing down

these words and then the names of those men who thought they were so holy there having treated this woman so indignantly in the name of righteousness, but yet they weren't right with God themselves.

But these guys weren't paying attention to what He was doing so much (at least not yet) they thought He was being rude, and so they kept pressing the issue.

Vs7-9

What's He doing? He's shedding a little light on the wickedness of their own hearts, and so though they brought her there to be accused, He turned the situation and brought accusation against the accusers. and This is where I graft my opinion because when Jesus said, "He who is without sin, let him throw a stone at her 1st." The inference isn't only without sin period, but even a sin of the same kind, be it adultery or fornication, and then He began to write in the dirt again. and That word "wrote" in vs 6 and the word, "wrote" in vs 8 are 2 different Greek words. The word in vs 6 speaks of, "Writing against" or "Accusations" and the word in vs 8 speaks of, "Writing descriptively." So that quite possibly Jesus bent down, looked up at ol' Levi or whoever, etched his name in the dirt, and then beside that another name, of a certain lady, and a date perhaps a time. and Suddenly Levi says, "Boys, I just remembered, I'm supposed to pick up some spices on the way home for supper tonight, gotta go."

Then Jesus looked at Simeon or whoever, same thing; Simeon suddenly remembered a counseling appointment he had. and On down He went until He'd shown them each the sins of their own lives, and that took place in their own hearts. and One by one, they all dropped their rocks, seeing their own guilt and inability to carry out justice and being convicted they left. It's the spec vs the plank in the eye syndrome, and it's so easy to accuse you of the very things I'm guilty of, if not physically than in my heart. and Jesus just exposed their hypocrisy and they all split, Ps 90:8 says, "*You have set our iniquities before You, Our secret sins in the light of Your countenance.*" and I'm of the notion that the Lord literally physically fulfilled that, that very day.

Vs 10-11

You know what I see here? Liberation, Jesus just set this captive free, He didn't come to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. and "*There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*" Rom 8:1 You say, wait a minute Jeff, she was walking according to the flesh. "Was" being the operative word.

Notice they called Him, "Teacher," she called Him, "Lord." She's had a personal encounter with Jesus Christ and she'll never be the same, you might say she found (like the song we sing) the greatness of mercy and love at the feet of Jesus. He came to seek and to save that which was lost. She's been liberated, set free, not free to sin, free from sin, she's a new creation now, old things have passed away and all things have been made new.

Jesus wasn't *condoning* her actions; He demanded fruits worthy of repentance. He said, "Go, and sin no more." and That's the key, once you've had a personal encounter with Jesus Christ your life can never be the same, and the evidence of that encounter is found not only in your attitude on life, but your lifestyle itself. and I'm not saying that once you've invited Jesus into your life that you'll never make another mistake, but that He'll break those patterns, and that habitual inability to do nothing about your sin, He'll put a stop to the practice of sin in your life. If you've experienced the mercy and love of Jesus Christ having had a personal encounter with Him, hey, you're forgiven, now Go, you're free, sin no more.

You see Jesus realized that the condemnation for that sin of hers was going to be placed upon Himself in about 6 months, upon the cross. So in reality she didn't have to pay for it, He would, and He's paid for yours and for mine as well, now lead your life in a manner that just says, "Thank you," to Jesus. Sin no more, don't go back to those things that placed Him on the cross in the 1st place, go and sin no more.

It's on a black background that jeweler will set his diamonds, they shine all the brighter that way, and so it's on this background of what's happened here, and the sin that's been exposed, that Jesus makes this incredible claim to these people He was teaching before He was so rudely interrupted, but turning it to His advantage He now makes this declaration.

Vs 12

Jesus had just shed light on the black hearts of all these men, but when you turn on the light all the roaches run for cover. and That's what they did, but this is just another invitation of salvation to anyone who'll but come *to* Him and believe *in* Him, He wants to open the eyes of mankind to the truth, that they might walk in the light, rather than in the darkness.

Vs13

Remember it takes 2 or more witness to establish a matter, and these guys just refuse to give an inch, they're just so blind.

Vs14-18

To keep it brief Jesus says His witness is true because #1 He deals in truth, knows the facts and makes His assessment accordingly. As to where they're clueless, #2 Because He doesn't judge by the outward appearance but according to the heart, something they can't do. and Finally, He *does* have another witness to verify the reality of who He is, the Father, and He bore witness at His baptism, "This is My beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased." Then again

on The Mt of Transfiguration, but ultimately all throughout His Word, in the volume of the book it's written of, pointing to, and testifying about Jesus.

Vs19-20

It wasn't time for Him to lay down His life for the sins of the world yet, so they weren't going to touch Him. But there in vs19 they accused Him of being born out of wed-lock did you catch that? "Where is your Father?" You know, "We don't know who your dad is, Mary was pregnant before she married Joseph."

Jesus basically says, "That's right you don't know My dad, and you don't know Me." God the Father and God the Son are a package deal, you can't know the Father apart from the Son, and to know the Son is to know the Father. They're in the dark about all that, but as for you, as for me, "*If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.*" 1 John 1:7
So be free in Christ, and Go, and sin no more.

But if you're here today and you don't know Jesus Christ then understand that He's not here to condemn you, but that you through Him might be saved. But He's the Light of the world, and it's only in Him that we come to the light, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. Jesus gave His life that you might have life, and if you'll but give your heart to Jesus Christ today, you'll step into the light, and the blood of Jesus Christ will cleanse you from all sin, and you'll leave this place forgiven it's up to you.