

Simply Jesus

The Life and Ministry of God's Son

Inductive: Lesson 14

Introduction

Toward the end of the Feast of Tabernacles, as everyone from out of town headed home, Jesus retreated to the Mount of Olives as He often had before. Twice earlier in the day the religious leaders had attempted unsuccessfully to set a trap for Jesus; twice He eluded them. So early the following morning, He returned again to the temple. Once there *all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them* (John 8:2). With so many of the religious leaders focused on rules, regulations, and traditions, the words Jesus spoke must have brought fresh wind and fresh fire to the souls of these eager listeners.

It was within these same temple walls two decades earlier that Mary and Joseph found their teenage son teaching and astounding the hearers. His words to worried parents at that time were, "Did you not know I must be about My Father's business?" Now, on this particular occasion He would proclaim an amazing statement to the people: "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life" (John 8:12).

Did you know

There are several instances in the Bible that talk about the *finger of God*. Scripture records that God wrote the Ten Commandments with His finger (Exodus 31:18). Also recorded is the incident regarding King Belshazzar's last night as ruler of Babylon when God's finger wrote on the palace wall, "You've been weighted in the balance and your kingdom is found wanting" (Daniel 5). Here in John 8, what was it that Jesus found important enough to stoop down to the ground and write with His finger in the midst of an angry crowd that surrounded Him? Perhaps it was the list of secret sins belonging to those accusers who had brought a sinful woman to Him. He was about to use the moment to teach a life lesson about the consequences of judging others.

Open your Bible and lesson each day by beginning with a word of prayer.

Up Close ~

The chart below represents a reader's guide to the contents of this week's lesson. The topical teachings and/or events covered are followed by the primary scriptural text as well as the supportive parallel passages. You will be able to receive and grasp a well-rounded picture of the story narrative in the Gospel harmony by reading every passage. However, using the bolded text as your point of reference (your anchor text) will allow you to determine the facts, lessons, and personal applications necessary to formulate your own conclusions.

<u>Teaching / Event</u>	<u>Scripture Text</u>	<u>Parallel Passages</u>
An Adulteress Faces the Light of the World	John 8:1–12	
Jesus Defends His Self-Witness	John 8:13–20	
Jesus Predicts His Departure	John 8:21–30	
The Truth Shall Make You Free	John 8:31–36	
Abraham's Seed and Satan's	John 8:37–52	
Before Abraham Was, I AM	John 8:53–59	

First Impressions: Group Discussion

Reflect for a moment on the passages you have just read.

Respond by recording your first impressions from your initial reading of the text. Be prepared to share one of your impressions with your discussion group.

Heartbeat: John 8:31b–32 NKJV (Memory verse)

(Write it out once in the space below. **Practice it each time** you open your lesson.)

If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

1 But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

2 Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him;
and He sat down and taught them.

3 Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery.

And when they had set her in the midst,

4 they said to Him, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act.

5 Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned.

But what do You say?'

6 This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him.

But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger,
as though He did not hear.

7 So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them,
'He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.'

8 And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground.

9 Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience,
went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last.

And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her,
'Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?'

11 She said, 'No one, Lord.' And Jesus said to her,
'Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.

12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, 'I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall
not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.'

John 8:13–20

Jesus Defends His Self-Witness

13 The Pharisees therefore said to Him, ‘You bear witness of Yourself; Your witness is not true.’

14 Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Even if I bear witness of Myself, My witness is true,

for I know where I came from and where I am going;

but you do not know where I come from and where I am going.

15 You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one.

16 And yet if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone,

but I am with the Father who sent Me.

17 It is also written in your law that the testimony of two men is true.

18 I am One who bears witness of Myself, and the Father who sent Me

bears witness of Me.’

19 Then they said to Him, ‘Where is Your Father?’

Jesus answered, ‘You know neither Me nor My Father.

If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also.’

20 These words Jesus spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple;

and no one laid hands on Him, for His hour had not yet come.

John 8:31–36

The Truth Shall Make You Free

31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him,

‘If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.’

33 They answered Him, ‘We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to

anyone. How can You say, ‘You will be made free?’

34 Jesus answered them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.

35 And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever.

36 Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.’

John 8:53–59

Before Abraham Was, I AM

53 'Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead.

Who do You make Yourself out to be?'

54 Jesus answered, 'If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing.

It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God.

55 Yet you have not known Him; but I know Him.

And if I say, 'I do not know Him,' I shall be a liar like you;

but I do know Him and keep His word.

56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.'

57 Then the Jews said to Him, 'You are not yet fifty years old,

and have You seen Abraham?'

58 Jesus said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I Am.'

59 Then they took up stones to throw at Him;

but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple,

going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

(Scripture from the New King James Bible, © 1980 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission.)

Observation: Look!

Pray. Read the Bible passage several times, trying to get a big picture of what is going on.

Left Column (Facts): Following the writer in the order he tells the story, briefly describe who is involved, what is happening, when and where the events are taking place.

Right Column (Observations): Look closely to observe details. Some questions you may ask:

- What do you know about the people involved in the story? What questions does the story raise? What sources of conflict do you see? What does Jesus identify as true and important to life?
- Put yourself in the Biblical character's shoes. What were his ambitions? How did the character relate to others or to God? What problem did he think he faced? Did Jesus identify a different problem in his life? What did he discover about God? How did he respond?
- Are there any words that you are not familiar with? Look up the definition.
- Are there words or phrases that are repeated or emphasized? Why are they key?
- Identify comparisons, such as "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven..." What do you know about leaven (yeast)? Identify contrasts, such as "You have heard it said...but I say to you..."
- Extra: Record information you may find in Bible dictionaries, maps, handbooks, or encyclopedias. Understanding the culture/time in which Jesus lived will help you discover the meaning of the text.

John 8:1–12

An Adulteress Faces the Light of the World

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

John 8:13–20

Jesus Defends His Self-Witness

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

John 8:31–36

The Truth Shall Make You Free

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

Interpretation: What does it mean?

Pray. The more time you take to observe the passage, the more you will have a basis for understanding what God's Word means. Interpretation **always** seeks to answer the questions, "What was God saying to the original audience?" and then, "How does that same truth relate to life today?" Asking yourself questions will help you see the spiritual lesson in the text: What does this teach me is true about God? What does it teach me is true about mankind? Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to the promise? Is there an example I should follow or avoid? A spiritual lesson is a timeless truth that points to God and speaks to the heart of man. Stating the lesson in a sentence of 10 words or less will help you keep it simple and memorable.

Application: How does it apply to me? Pray. Practicing Biblical truth day-to-day is the only way to grow in Christ and reflect the glory of God. To apply the spiritual lesson you have learned from the text, you have to take deliberate action. Take the time to examine yourself, and ask: Does this spiritual lesson point out error in my thoughts about God? Does it point to error in my attitude or actions? How does this lesson relate to my home life, my work, my relationships, how I spend my time, etc? What change is required? What practical steps will I take to make that change? Write your application in the form of a question to help make it personal.

John 8:1–12

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

John 8:13–20

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

John 8:31–36

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

John 8:53–59

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Behold & Be Transformed

What did you see as you beheld God's Son?

How does beholding (looking upon) Him, motivate you to change your thoughts, habit, attitude, speech or actions?

Pause . . . What is the most significant lesson you have learned this week?

Ponder . . . How will you put it into practice?

Pray . . . Write out your prayer and be specific.
