

DAY ONE

1. What thoughts from the spiritual reflection or commentary of Lesson 7 did you find helpful this week?

Read John 8:1-11

2a. As today's passage begins, the Feast of Tabernacles has ended and the people went back to their homes. Jesus went to the Mount of Olives (verse 1). The next morning He returned to the temple area to teach (verse 2). The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman to Him. What was her situation according to verse 3?

b. In verses 4-5 the Scribes and Pharisees told Jesus the woman's crime and that Mosaic law commanded them to stone her. Read and record Leviticus 20:10.

3a. They asked Jesus what should be done. Why did they ask Him this question (verse 6)?

b. Jesus knew the questioners were trying to trap Him. If He recommended stoning the adulteress, it would have violated Roman law (John 18:31). Who would He have angered if He recommended letting her go?

4a. Rather than answering their question, what did Jesus do (second part of verse 6)?

b. When they continued asking Him, He straightened up and addressed them. What did He say (verse 7)?

5a. Jesus bent down to write again. The elders and others went away one by one so that He was left alone with the woman. What did He ask her?

b. When the woman replied, “No one sir,” what were His final words to her (verse 11)?

6. **CONNECTION:** In this passage the scribes and Pharisees tried to involve Jesus in the judgment and punishment of the “adulterous” woman. They wanted Him to support the stoning so they could report Him to the Romans for violating Roman law; or to oppose the stoning in which case they could say He opposed Mosaic law. But instead of taking the bait He silently wrote on the ground. Has someone tried to draw you into a situation in which you had to judge or condemn another person? How did you handle the situation?

Read and record James 4:12 and pray for the wisdom to know how to respond in difficult situations.

DAY TWO

Read John 8:12-20

NOTE: Besides water, another theme of the Feast of Tabernacles was light. It was a celebration of Israel’s role as a light to the nations. Additionally, to remind them of the bright cloud of God’s presence that guided the Israelites through the desert during the Exodus, each night of the Festival the Courtyard of Women at the Temple was lit with huge lamps. (Agape)

7a. In today’s lesson Jesus referred to the theme of light when He addressed the crowd which had gathered to hear Him. Who did He say He is (first half of verse 12)?

b. What did He say in the last half of the verse about those who follow Him?

8. Countless Old Testament verses refer to God as “Light”. Select one of your choosing and record the phrase that identifies God as Light.

Isaiah 60:1 and 3

Micah 7:8

9. The Pharisees questioned Jesus’ testimony because He had not provided at least two witnesses, as required by Jewish law (verse 13). In verse 14 Jesus stated that His testimony could be verified for two reasons. What were they?

10a. Jesus discussed judgment in verses 15-16, pointing out that the Pharisees judged by appearances whereas He does not judge. Why did Jesus say His judgment is valid?

b. Jesus then pointed out that He met the requirements of Jewish law concerning witnesses. Who did Jesus say His witnesses are in verse 18?

11a. When they asked “Where is your Father?” Jesus answered by again declaring His divinity. What did He say in verse 19?

b. Jesus spoke these words while teaching in the Treasury in the Temple area, also known as the Courtyard of Women (Rittmeyer.com). According to verse 20, why was He not arrested?

12. CONNECTION: Jesus is the Light of the world, but the Pharisees did not recognize Him. He came to fulfill God’s promise to redeem Israel, but in this passage the Pharisees could not see that. They wanted Judaism to stay the same. Surrounded by Greek and Roman pagan culture it seems their chief agenda was to maintain their traditional religious identity. They closed their eyes and hearts to the Messiah in front of them. Think of a time this week or last that you missed a new opportunity or new friend because of your “important” agenda or routine. How would you act differently next time?

Read and record Isaiah 43:19. As you pray today, ask God to show you opportunities he wants you to seize.

DAY THREE

Read John 8:21-30

13a. In today’s lesson Jesus warned the crowd about what their disbelief would cause to happen when He went away (verse 21). Summarize the warning.

b. The Jews were confused and speculated on why Jesus would be going away (verse 22). Describe their speculation and compare it with that in John 7:35 after Jesus had made a similar statement.

14a. Jesus then explained to them the great gulf that existed between them and Him. Complete the following sentences using verse 23.

You belong _____ ; I belong _____

You belong _____ ; but I _____

b. What did Jesus tell them twice will happen unless they believe in Him (verse 24)?

15. Jesus' words echo those spoken by God to the prophet Ezekiel. Record Ezekiel 3:18.

16a. In verse 25 the Jews asked Jesus, "Who are you?" How did Jesus answer them?

b. Find a verse in a previous chapter in John in which Jesus told them that He is God.

17a. In verse 26 Jesus declared: I have much to say about you in condemnation. (Another translation is, "I have much to say about you and to condemn you for.") What else did He have to tell them?

b. Although the Jews did not realize it, about whom is he speaking (verse 27)?

18a. In verses 28 and 29, Jesus explained His relationship with the Father and what they will realize after they have lifted up the Son of Man. What two words reveal Jesus' divine identity?

b. How did many react to Jesus' words (verse 30)?

19. CONNECTION: In this passage Jesus prophesied His death, and warned the Jews of a permanent separation from God resulting from their disbelief: dying in their sins. They are from this world, from below. He is from above, united with the Father. The only way for them and us to cross that bridge is by believing in Him. Saint Augustine said: "Understanding is the reward of faith. Therefore, seek not to understand that you may believe, but believe that you may understand." Was there a time that your faith was solidified and you believed wholeheartedly in the great "I AM"? Share some thoughts with your small group.

Read and record John 8:58 and thank God for the great gift of faith in Him.

DAY FOUR

Read John 8:31-38

20a. In verse 31 Jesus turned His attention to those Jews who believed in Him. What were they to do to truly be His disciples?

b. What were they to know and what great gift would they be given as the result of that knowledge according to verse 32? (Good memory verse)

21. They questioned why they would need to be set free when as Abraham's descendants they had never been slaves (verse 33). Jesus insisted that they were slaves. What reason did He give (verse 34)?

22a. Jesus then gave an example to show how He will free us from the slavery of sin. What did Jesus say was the difference between a slave and a son (verse 35)?

b. What can the son do according to verse 36?

23. Even though the Jews were descendants of Abraham, Jesus argued that they were not acting like Abraham's children should act. What did He say they were trying to do and why (verse 37)?

24. Jesus assured them of the truth of His statement because it was what He had seen in the Father's presence. What should they be doing (verse 38)?

25. CONNECTION: Slavery was commonplace in Jesus' day, so the people listening to Him realized what it meant to be a slave dominated and controlled by a master. In the same way, those who obey sin are the slaves of sin. One grace we should pray for according to Pope Francis is the grace to remember our sins. Only then can we be aware of God's mercy. Is there a special way in which you reflect on your sins? Share some thoughts with your small group.

Now read and record Romans 6:18. Begin your prayer today with thanksgiving that you have been "set free from sin."

DAY FIVE

Read John 8:39-47

26. In today's lesson Jesus continued to scold His audience, who had just claimed to be Abraham's children. If they were truly Abraham's children, they would do the works of Abraham (verse 39). Instead, what were they doing to Jesus, who had told them the truth (verse 40)?

27. Jesus explained that though the Jews were hereditary children of Abraham, they were in fact the children of whomever they chose to obey and imitate (verse 41). When they protested that they were the true children of God, how did Jesus disprove their assertion (verse 42)?

28a. In verse 43 Jesus stated that they were unable to understand Him because they could not bear to hear His word. What terrible accusation did He make (beginning of verse 44)?

b. Briefly summarize how Jesus described the devil in the rest of verse 44?

29a. Jesus told them that because He spoke the truth, they did not believe Him (verse 45). What questions did Jesus pose in verse 46?

b. According to verse 47, who hears the words of God and who does not listen?

30. CONNECTION: The Jews were proud of their heritage as children of Abraham, and rightfully so. It was a precious heritage which included God's setting them free from slavery under Pharaoh in Egypt, bringing them to the Promised Land and giving them the Mosaic law to live righteous lives. Family and religious heritage is important to us as well. Describe a heritage you received in your family of which you are proud.

Read and record Psalm 119:111 and thank God for the heritage of faith you possess.

DAY SIX

Read John 8:48-59

31a. In today's lesson the feisty discourse between Jesus and the Jews continued. First the Jews accused Jesus of being a Samaritan and of being possessed (verse 48). Denying those accusations, what else did He say to contradict them (verse 49)?

b. Jesus then told them that He did not seek His own glory. Who seeks Jesus' glory (verse 50)?

32. Record verse 51 in which Jesus made a bold promise.

33a. Jesus' promise that those who keep His word will never see death made no sense to His listeners because even their father Abraham and their prophets were subject to death (verse 52). Summarize their questions about this in verse 53.

b. Jesus again connected His saving power with His relationship with His Father. Who did He say glorifies Him and why is that important to them (verse 54)?

34a. Then Jesus talked about how He knows the Father, whereas they did not. What else did He say He does in verse 55?

b. To illustrate His Messiahship, Jesus told the Jews that their father Abraham rejoiced to see Jesus' day (verse 56). How did they contest it in verse 57?

35a. Finally Jesus made a statement so outrageous that the crowd tried to stone Him. What did He say in verse 58?

b. What did they do after Jesus' claim of divinity and what happened as a result (verse 59)?

36. CONNECTION: Our God is eternal and timeless – the Alpha and the Omega, the great I AM. He has always existed and always will. However, He not only is the God of yesterday and tomorrow, but is also the God of the present moment. Our lives on Earth are marked by minutes, hours, days, weeks, months and years. Since we don't know how much time we have, each day is precious.

Sometimes we behave as though we have all the time in the world and take for granted the moments we have. In what ways do you keep from wasting the precious gift of time?

Read and record Psalm 90:12. Begin your prayer, thankful both for the time He has given us on earth and the promise of eternity with Him.

Read Lesson 8 John 8:1-59 in the *Meditation and Commentary on the Gospel of John* by Rev. Alfred McBride, O. Praem. The Cornerstone Catholic Scripture Study acknowledges that scripture quotations in this study are from the New American Bible, Revised Edition (NABRE) © 2010, 1991, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

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