

# Inclusion and Transformation

John 8:1-11

## John 8:1-11 Disclaimer

[The earliest manuscripts and many other ancient witnesses do not have John 7:53-8:11. A few manuscripts include these verses, wholly or in part, after John 7:36, John 21:25, Luke 21:38 or Luke 24:53]

*Story communicates truth most  
comprehensively and transformatively.*

“Art addresses us in the fullness of our being  
–simultaneously speaking to our intellect,  
emotions, intuition, imagination, memory  
and physical senses. There are some truths  
about life that can be expressed only as  
stories or songs or images.”

Jonathan T. Pennington, *Reading the Gospels Wisely*, 46

For the law was given through Moses;  
grace and truth was given through  
Jesus Christ.

John 1:17

Then they all went home, but Jesus went to  
the Mount of Olives.

At dawn he appeared again in the temple  
courts, where all the people gathered  
around him, and he sat down to teach them.

The teachers of the law and the Pharisees  
brought in a woman caught in adultery.

They made her stand before the group and  
said to Jesus,

“Teacher, this woman was caught in the act  
of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded  
us to stone such women. Now what do you  
say?” 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.

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.” Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

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.

Jesus straightened up and asked her,  
"Woman, where are they? Has no one  
condemned you?"

"No one, sir," she said.

"Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus  
declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

John 8:1-11



“Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women.  
Now what do you say?”

John 8:4-5

“Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.

Matthew 19:4-6

They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

John 8:6

When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance and said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die.

Exodus 20:18-19

So Moses chiseled out two stone tablets like the first ones and went up Mount Sinai early in the morning, as the Lord had commanded him; and he carried the two stone tablets in his hands. Then the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the Lord. And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished. (Ex 34:4-7)

“Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

John 8:7-8

Jesus straightened up and asked her,  
"Woman, where are they? Has no one  
condemned you?"

"No one, sir," she said.

"Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus  
declared.

John 8:10-11a

For God did not send his Son into the world  
to condemn the world, but to save the world  
through him.

John 3:17

“Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”

John 8:11

Forgiveness is not the same thing as 'tolerance'. Being forgiven doesn't mean that sin doesn't matter. On the contrary: 'forgiveness' means that sin does matter—but that God is choosing to remove it.

NT Wright

At this, they picked up stones to stone him,  
but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the  
temple grounds.

John 8:59