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By Dan Maines

John 8

John 8:1-2

But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. And early in the morning He came again into the temple area, and all the people were coming to Him; and He sat down and began teaching them.

† The Mount of Olives, often associated with prayer and prophecy, was Jesus' place of retreat. Returning to the temple, He taught openly, revealing His authority.

John 8:3-6

Now the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman caught in the act of adultery, and after placing her in the center, they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women; what then do You say?" Now they were saying this to test Him, so that they might have grounds for accusing Him. But Jesus stooped down and with His finger wrote on the ground.

† Their motive was not justice but to trap Him between Roman law, which restricted Jewish executions, and Mosaic law.

† The Mishnah (Sanhedrin 7:4) required strict evidence for capital punishment, making their charge suspect.

John 8:7-9

When they persisted in asking Him, He straightened up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. Now when they heard this, they began leaving, one by one, beginning with the older ones, and He was left alone, and the woman was where she was, in the center.

† Jesus upheld the Law's demand for purity, but exposed hypocrisy. None could meet the standard of sinlessness to judge.

† Early church father Augustine noted the contrast: misery and mercy stood face to face.

John 8:10-11

Straightening up, Jesus said to her, "Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on do not sin any longer."

† Jesus did not excuse sin but offered forgiveness and transformation. Mercy and holiness met together.

John 8:12

Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; the one who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

† In the temple during the Feast of Booths, giant lamps lit the court. Jesus declared Himself the true Light, surpassing ritual.

† The Dead Sea Scrolls (1QS 3.18-21) describe the battle between light and darkness, which Christ fulfills.

John 8:13-14

So the Pharisees said to Him, "You are testifying about Yourself; Your testimony is not true!" Jesus answered and said to them, "Even if I am testifying about Myself, My testimony is true, because I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from or where I am going."

† They challenged His authority, but He testified from divine origin. His self-witness was valid because He came from the Father.

John 8:15-16

"You judge according to the flesh; I am not judging anyone. But even if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone in it, but I and the Father who sent Me."

† Their judgment was superficial. Christ's judgment was divine, aligned with the Father.

John 8:17-18

"Even in your Law it has been written that the testimony of two people is true. I am He who testifies about Myself, and the Father who sent Me testifies about Me."

† He met their standard: two witnesses, Himself and the Father.

John 8:19-20

So they were saying to Him, "Where is Your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither Me nor My Father; if you knew Me, you would know My Father also." These words He spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple area; and no one arrested Him, because His hour had not yet come.

† Knowledge of Christ equals knowledge of the Father. Their ignorance exposed spiritual blindness.

John 8:21-24

Then He said again to them, "I am going away, and you will look for Me, and will die in your sin; where I am going, you cannot come." So the Jews were saying, "Surely He will not kill Himself, will He, since He says, 'Where I am going, you cannot come'?" And He was saying to them, "You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am, you will die in your sins."

† Jesus declared Himself "I am," identifying with Yahweh. Rejection of Him leads to eternal loss.

John 8:25-27

So they were saying to Him, "Who are You?" Jesus said to them, "What have I even been saying to you from the beginning? I have many things to say and to judge regarding you, but He who sent Me is true; and the things which I heard from Him, these I am saying to the world." They did not realize that He had been speaking to them about the Father.

† Their blindness persisted despite His clear witness.

John 8:28-29

So Jesus said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am, and I do nothing on My own, but I say these things as the Father instructed Me. And He who sent Me is with

Me; He has not left Me alone, because I always do the things that are pleasing to Him."

† His crucifixion would reveal His identity as "I am." Unity with the Father was total.

John 8:30-32

As He said these things, many came to believe in Him. So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly My disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

† True disciples abide in His word. Freedom comes through truth, not mere heritage.

John 8:33-36

They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, 'You will become free'?" Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin. Now the slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. So if the Son sets you free, you really will be free."

† Freedom is from sin's slavery, not political bondage. Only Christ, the Son, grants true freedom.

John 8:37-41

"I know that you are Abraham's descendants; yet you are seeking to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. I speak of the things which I have seen with My Father; therefore you also do the things which you heard from your father." They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you are Abraham's children, do the deeds of Abraham. But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God; this Abraham did not do. You are doing the deeds of your father." They said to Him, "We were not born as a result of sexual immorality; we

have one Father: God."

† They claimed Abraham as father, but their deeds revealed otherwise. Their insult implied questioning Jesus' birth, showing hostility.

John 8:42-44

Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I came from God and am here; for I have not even come on My own, but He sent Me. Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot listen to My word. You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he tells a lie, he speaks from his own nature, because he is a liar and the father of lies."

† Their opposition revealed spiritual parentage. They were not true children of Abraham but of the devil.

† Early church father Chrysostom emphasized this as the ultimate exposure of their hypocrisy.

John 8:45-47

"But because I say the truth, you do not believe Me. Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me? The one who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God."

† Rejection of truth revealed unbelief. Christ's sinlessness stood as irrefutable proof of His authority.

John 8:48-51

The Jews answered and said to Him, "Do we not rightly say that You are a Samaritan, and You have a demon?" Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon; on the contrary, I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me. But I am not seeking My glory; there is One who seeks it, and judges. Truly, truly I say to you, if

anyone follows My word, he will never see death."

† Their insult revealed desperation. Jesus promised eternal life to those who keep His word.

John 8:52-55

The Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You have a demon. Abraham died, and the prophets as well; and yet You say, 'If anyone follows My word, he will never taste of death.' You are not greater than our father Abraham, who died, are You? The prophets died too; whom do You make Yourself out to be?" Jesus answered, "If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing; it is My Father who glorifies Me, of whom you say, 'He is our God'; and you have not come to know Him, but I know Him. And if I say that I do not know Him, I will be a liar like you; but I do know Him, and I follow His word."

† They accused Him of arrogance, but Jesus revealed unity with the Father as His true glory.

John 8:56-59

"Your father Abraham was overjoyed that he would see My day, and he saw it and rejoiced." So the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and You have seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am." Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and left the temple grounds.

† Jesus declared His eternal identity as "I am," the divine name revealed to Moses (Exodus 3:14). They understood this as blasphemy and sought to stone Him.

† Irenaeus affirmed this passage as clear testimony to Christ's deity.

How it applies to us today

† Jesus is the Light of the world, calling us from darkness to truth.

† True freedom comes only through Christ, who breaks sin's slavery.

† Heritage or religion cannot save; only belief in the "I am" gives life.

† Rejecting Christ is aligning with the father of lies; believing in Him is eternal life.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

† Mishnah, Sanhedrin 7:4 – requirements for execution

† Augustine, Homilies on John – mercy and misery in the adulterous woman

† Dead Sea Scrolls, 1QS 3.18-21 – light and darkness

† Chrysostom, Homilies on John – exposure of hypocrisy

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies – "Before Abraham was, I am" as deity

† Exodus 3:14 – divine name revealed to Moses

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