

CIF
John 8

John 7:53-8:11, 8:30-59

7:53-8:11

Reasons why we don't think that John wrote this section:

Manuscript evidence is not good. Most of the early manuscripts don't have it. That is not a proof however.

Some manuscripts have it in other places : eg in Luke's Gospel

You get the feeling that some of the scribes did not know what to do with it. They did not want to leave it out so it moved around a bit. Those manuscripts that have it have a lot of textual variants. The story was known very early.

It's style is not like John's style of writing.

The event is not recorded by any of the other Gospels. But it does seem to be true to what Jesus said and did.

It is not as if it is teaching something that is completely different from any other story in the Bible.

So what do we do with it? Can we learn something from it even with all these questions surrounding the text?

I've never taught it before. If it does not come from John then it is hard to understand it in the light of the whole Gospel. We usually try and understand a text in its larger context.

Let's say then that John did not write it and therefore it should not be here in our Bibles. Does our doctrine of Scripture then lead us to cut it out and leave it completely? Ie Human author and divine author.

What if we don't know who the human author is?

A. I guess that if it is early and came from the period of the apostles then we can read it and find it helpful especially if it doesn't teach something completely different.

So what do we learn from it?

- Jesus' deep compassion for the lost.
- He ate with tax collectors and sinners.
- He calls everyone to leave a life of sin.
- Jesus came to seek and save the lost.

Compassion but firmness

Part 2 – John 8:30-59

What is going on here?

The whole question of who can trace their line back to Abraham.

The Jews know that they are children of Abraham – they are proud of this. It gives them their identity. They are responding to what Jesus says in verses 31-32. Jesus says that they will be free if they follow Jesus' teaching. "Free! What do you mean, free!"

Jesus goes on to speak of their wish to kill him. V37

"If you were Abraham's children....." v39

"If God were your Father....." v42

The real crunch comes at the end where Jesus says in verse 56.....
This shocks the Jews.

Jesus finishes the argument in verse 58.....

There is only one conclusion possible:
That one greater than Abraham is here.