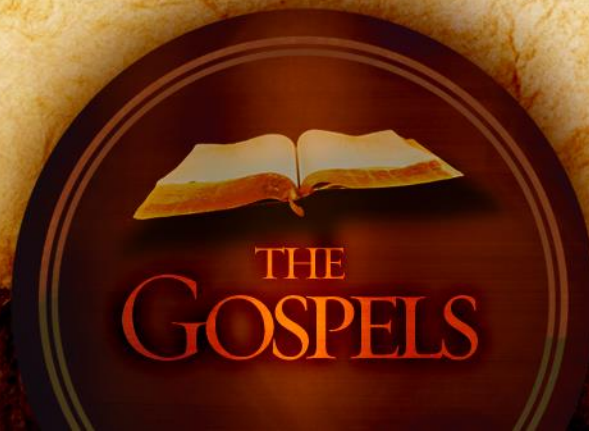




JOHN

Light of the World





INTRODUCTION:

1. Nothing is more humiliating than being caught in an act of disobedience. Whether it's a child with his hand in the cookie jar or an adult driving over the speed limit, we all know the sinking feeling of being caught.
2. In our text for the morning, a woman is caught in the most awkward of situations - in the very act of adultery.
3. If you are using a Bible translation other than the KJV or NKJV, you will notice immediately that there's some question about the authenticity of John 7:53-8:11.



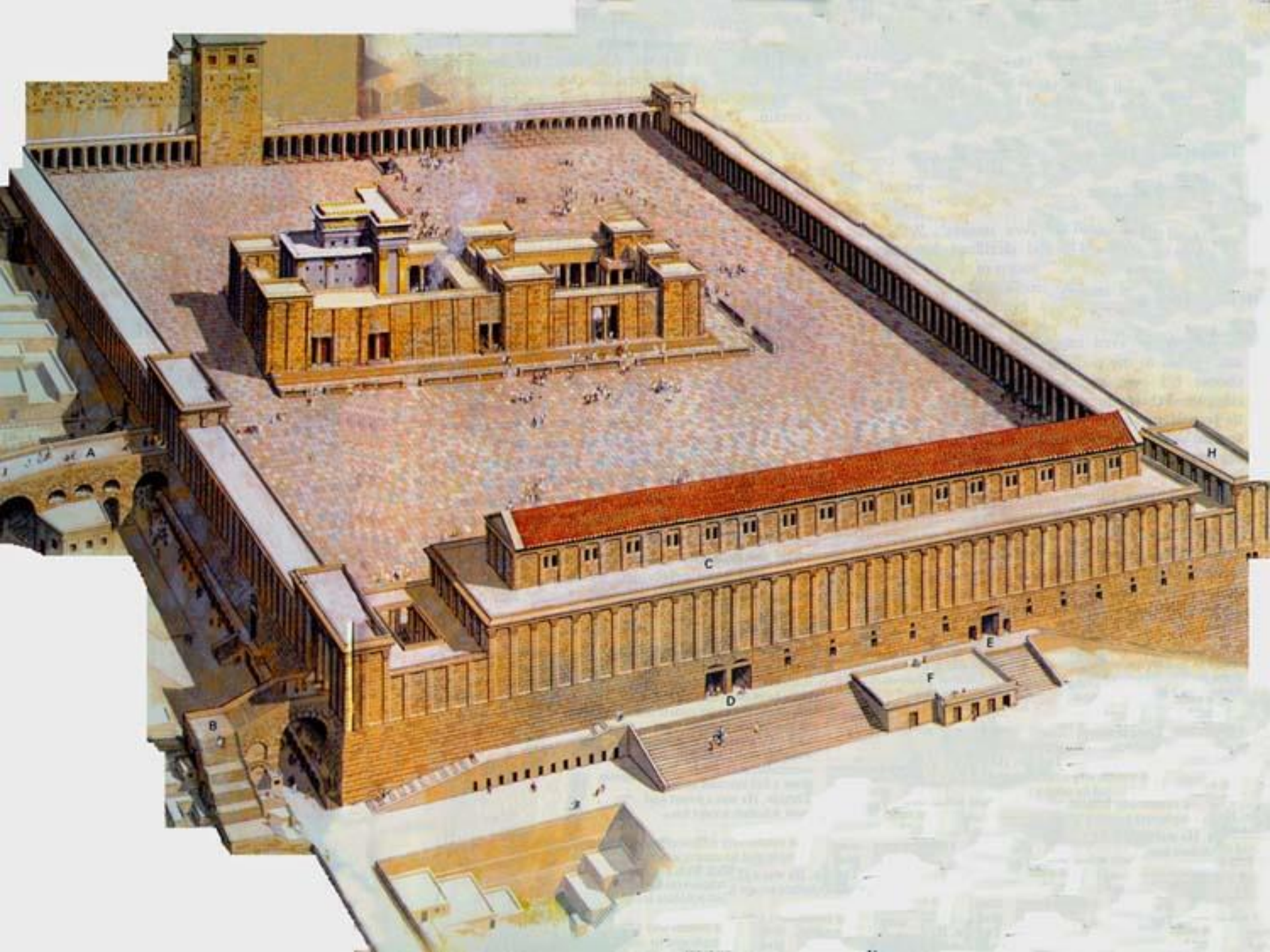
ANALYSIS:

1. The Setting (7:53-8:2)

A. The Feast of Tabernacles

The Fall of A.D. 29 (six months away from His crucifixion)

B. The temple courts at dawn





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C. Jesus “sat down” (that’s how the rabbis taught)

2. The Attack (8:3-6a)

A. The RAs were not concerned for her salvation.

"Their whole attitude toward both the woman and Jesus was one of cruelty. She, disheveled and sullen, was catapulted into the center of a public assembly, and her sin was shouted aloud for all to hear. There was not one syllable spoken concerning salvaging her, guilty as she was. She was merely the bait for the trap by which they hoped to take Jesus. The utter heartlessness of her captors was as immoral as was the promiscuity of the woman."

Dr. Merrill Tenney



ANALYSIS:

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The Fall of A.D. 29 (six months away from His crucifixion)

B. The temple courts at dawn

C. Jesus “sat down” (that’s how the rabbis taught)

2. The Attack (8:3-6a)

A. The RAs were not concerned for her salvation.

B. The RAs were not concerned for the Law.

C. Their goal? They wanted a basis for accusing him”



ANALYSIS:

3. The Response (8:6b-8)

A. Jesus wrote on the ground (8:6b, 8)

B. Jesus spoke to the RAs (8:7)

See Deuteronomy 17:7 (cp. Matthew 7:1-5)

4. The Outcome (8:9-11)

A. There was no earthly condemnation (vss. 9, 10)

B. There was no heavenly condemnation (vs. 11)



APPLICATION:

This incident raises the issue of the church's responsibility to unsaved sinners in this world. How are we to treat them?

1. They should be treated with dignity.

Jesus' method of judging sin can be contrasted with that of His foes. They brought the woman in as a captive; He questioned her as a free person. They regarded her as an accessory to their convenience; He respected her as a human being. They saw only the blackness of her past — "the very act"; He thought in terms of her future — "sin no more." They were eager to stone her; He was ready to save her.

Dr. Merrill Tenney

The background of the slide features a grayscale photograph of a harbor. Several large cargo ships are visible on the water, with more ships and distant mountains visible in the hazy background. The text is overlaid on this image.



APPLICATION:

This incident raises the issue of the church's responsibility to unsaved sinners in this world. How are we to treat them?

1. They should be treated with dignity. Why?
 - A. Man is made in the image of God (Gen. 1:26)
 - B. Man is designed to share God's rule:
Genesis 1:26-28; Psalm 8:3-8; Hebrews 2:5-18
2. They should be treated with compassion.
See Matt. 9:35-38. "Workers are needed" (volunteer & pray).
3. They should be treated with hope (Heb. 2:9-15)

Man is the crown of God's creation. He was made in the image and likeness of his Creator and was given complete dominion over the earth (Gen. 1:26). "The highest heavens belong to the Lord, but the earth he has given to man" (Psa. 115:16). Fallen man has lost that original dominion, but still possesses God's image (Gen. 9:6; Jam. 3:9). Redeemed through Christ, God's incarnate Son, believing men have already been moved positionally from the realm of "little lower than angels" (Heb. 2:7; Psa. 8:5) to a realm "far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given" (Eph. 1:21; 2:6). Glorified men will even judge angels (1 Cor. 6:3).

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