

# 04/26/20 Sermon Notes

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Part of Just Getting Started A series on the Gospel of John  
April 24, 2020

## Message: Written in Sand

## Series: Just Getting Started

Recap: We're in the 14th week of this series on the Gospel of John. Written by one of many Johns in Scripture, this was the disciple who Jesus loved. Matthew, Mark, and Luke are synoptic gospels (they are similar in structure and content) but John is different. He wrote his gospel to the world, to you. John tells the story of Jesus' life, ministry, death, resurrection, and it tells the story that through Jesus, you're Just Getting Started!

## Background

Last week Jesus was in Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles. He was confronted by the religious leaders; they wanted to arrest Him. Their multiple attempts failed all because it wasn't the right time ("the time had not yet come").

## Attempt to Trap Jesus

### *John 8:1-5 (NLT)*

1 Jesus returned to the Mount of Olives,

2 but early the next morning he was back again at the Temple. A crowd soon gathered, and he sat down and taught them.

3 As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd.

4 "Teacher," they said to Jesus, "this woman was caught in the act of adultery.

5 The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?"

- Jesus sat down WITH the people and taught them (v2)

*Jesus was teaching - it's not about rules... it's about relationships! It's not about laws... it's about love.*

*—Pastor Chad*

The Pharisees thought they “had” Jesus. He was in front of the crowd, yet He was backed into a corner. They knew His message of love and forgiveness would contradict the law. This was what they’d been waiting on!

***John 8:6-9 (NLT)***

6 They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger.

7 They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, “All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!”

8 Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust.

9 When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman.

*Here is the crazy thing... nowhere in this narrative do you see the man being brought out as a criminal, just the woman. Last time I checked, adultery wasn't a one-person thing - it takes two to tango. But the man wasn't condemned, at least not publicly, just the woman!*

*—Pastor Chad*

- The focus wasn't on condemning the man or the woman, the Pharisees were focusing on CONDEMNING Jesus (v6)

Jesus wrote in the sand, then hit the Pharisees with truth, a truth they couldn't argue with. If you've never sinned, you can be her accuser, you can cast the first stone - but if you've sinned, you can't be her accuser, you can't cast the first stone!

*It should change the way we think. It should change the way we act. It should change the way we treat others!*

*—Pastor Chad*

## **Jesus is the Light**

### **John 8:10-12 (NLT)**

10 Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, “Where are your accusers? Didn’t even one of them condemn you?”

11 “No, Lord,” she said. And Jesus said, “Neither do I. Go and sin no more.”

12 Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, “I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.”

- Jesus was saying – you are FORGIVEN - now go and sin no more

*See, we forget that part. We want the forgiveness, just not the accountability. We want to be forgiven, just leave out the sin no more part. That means we have to change! You want Jesus’ forgiveness, that’s great, so do I, but at some point we run out of second chances because our time on this earth runs out!*

*-Pastor Chad*

### **John 8:12 (NLT)**

Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, “I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.”

- Jesus said I am your LIGHT – you can’t find your way in the dark, and you don’t have to, I’m here for you!

The Pharisees were standing in the shadows (in the dark) and in v13 they called Jesus a liar. In v15 He told them they were judging by earthly standards.

*You’re so focused horizontally, you’re not even looking vertically – but if you want to connect with my Father in heaven – you need to start looking up!*

*-Pastor Chad*

### **John 8:19 (NLT)**

“Where is your father?” they asked. Jesus answered, “Since you don’t know who I am, you don’t know who my Father is. If you knew me, you would also know my Father.”

- Jesus is telling them – you are spiritually LOST

They had every opportunity to arrest Jesus. He was out in the open at the Temple, but they didn't. His time had not yet come – it wasn't the right time. Jesus told them about His death, burial, and resurrection – He told them He was going to a place where they couldn't go. Why?

- You will DIE in your sin (v21)

***John 8:23-24 (NLT)***

23 Jesus continued, “You are from below; I am from above. You belong to this world; I do not.

24 That is why I said that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I AM who I claim to be, you will die in your sins.”

Many who heard – believed!

***John 8:31-32 (NLT)***

31 Jesus said to the people who believed in him, “You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings.

32 And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

The truth will set you FREE (v32) but not just any truth, the truth that if you are his disciples... if you follow and remain faithful to his teachings... if you follow him with your life... then you'll be set free!

***John 8:44-47 (NLT)***

44 For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.

45 So when I tell the truth, you just naturally don't believe me!

46 Which of you can truthfully accuse me of sin? And since I am telling you the truth, why don't you believe me?

47 Anyone who belongs to God listens gladly to the words of God. But you don't listen because you don't belong to God.”

*I can't help but see John holding up a mirror and telling us to look – look hard and close at your life. What do you see in the mirror?*

*–Pastor Chad*

## **Good News**

Here's the good news! Regardless of your past or your present, you can make a decision right now that will change your future!

Sin separates us from God – but your heavenly Father loves you so much he sent His Son, Jesus to come to this earth, and die a sinner's death in your place – so you wouldn't have to.

But Satan parades you around in front of Jesus saying – look at their life – look at their mistakes – look at the sin – and then Satan tells Jesus – the law says the penalty for sin is death... you know what that means don't you Jesus, they must die! But then Jesus bends over, writes in the sand... You are forgiven! I died for you!

Choose Jesus today!