

Many early manuscripts of the Gospel of John omit this passage, and its style differs slightly from John's typical language, leading scholars to suggest it was a later addition preserved from authentic Jesus tradition. Some manuscripts place it elsewhere, even in Luke, indicating fluid transmission. Historically, the scene reflects first-century tensions around Mosaic law and Roman authority, since Jews lacked legal power to execute capital punishment. The narrative highlights issues of legalism, mercy, and communal judgment within Second Temple Judaism. Despite textual debates, the story has been widely accepted in Christian tradition for its profound portrayal of Jesus' wisdom and grace.

Have you ever witnessed or experienced a moment where someone was judged too quickly? What happened?

1. What stands out to you most in this passage on a first reading?
2. Why do you think the religious leaders brought the woman to Jesus publicly? See Leviticus 20:10; Deuteronomy 22:22
3. What does this situation reveal about their motives and understanding of the law?
4. How does Jesus respond to the accusation, and what is significant about His silence and writing on the ground?
5. What does Jesus mean when He says, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone"? See Romans 3:23
6. How can you hold both truth and compassion when addressing sin in a friend's life?
7. Why do you think the accusers leave one by one, beginning with the older ones?
8. How does Jesus balance justice and mercy in His response to the woman? See Psalm 85:10
9. What does this passage teach us about sin and personal accountability?
10. How does Jesus treat the woman differently from how the crowd treats her?
11. How does remembering your own need for grace change the way you treat others?
12. What does "go now and leave your life of sin" tell us about grace and transformation?
13. Where might we be tempted to act like the accusers in our own lives?

Prayer Points

Pray for those approaching the exam season this term.
Pray for all the individuals, families, and teachers in Bexhill.

BMS World Mission workers Andrea and Ian serve at a media centre broadcasting the gospel into North Africa. Despite increasing persecution, BMS continues to support workers who answer God's call to be witnesses in the hard places.

Sermon Notes



BIBLE STUDY

April 26th 2026

Who is without sin?

John 8:1-11

In the Gospel of John, Jesus progressively reveals His divine identity while confronting deep unbelief. He is presented as the light who exposes spiritual darkness, showing that true blindness is not physical but a refusal to recognise truth. As the Good Shepherd, He embodies sacrificial love, intimate care, and secure belonging for His people. This part of the gospel also emphasises faith as trust in His person rather than mere signs. These passages highlight themes of revelation, belief versus rejection, abundant life, and the growing tension between divine truth and human resistance.

If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001