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John 8:1-11 #3

1. “But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.
2. Early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people were coming to Him; and He sat down and began to teach them.
3. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery, and having set her in the center of the court,
4. they said to Him, ‘Teacher, this woman has been caught in adultery, in the very act.
5. ‘Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women; what then do You say?’
6. They were saying this, testing Him, so that they might have grounds for accusing Him. But Jesus stooped down and with His finger wrote on the ground.
7. But 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.’
8. Again He stooped down and wrote on the ground.
9. When they heard it, they began to go out one by one, beginning with the older ones, and He was left alone, and the woman, where she was, in the center of the court.
10. Straightening up, Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?’
11. She said, ‘No one, Lord.’ And Jesus said, ‘I do not

condemn you either. Go. From now on sin no more.””

In many of our Bibles today there are brackets around John 7:53-8:11 with the following footnote: “John 7:53-8:11 is not found in most old manuscripts.” Obviously many people in charge of making copies of the Scripture in the 2nd and 3rd centuries didn’t approve of the message of this passage. So they instructed their scribes to leave it out.

We salute the courage of these brave scribes who saw fit to leave a blank space on the parchment or vellum between John 7:52 and 8:12. These blank spaces, consistently found in many of the early manuscripts, stand as a testimony of the scribes’ silent protest of their master’s editing. The blank space, where John 7:53-8:11 should have been, signals those who would find and make copies of the Scriptures at a later date, that some verses are missing. Many of these scribes probably suffered a loss of pay, or even their jobs for wasting space on the precious parchment. Others may have lost their property or freedom, and some there very lives in being true to God and His word.

May we have the courage to stand up today to those who would delete, add to, or change the wording of the holy word of God. And may we have the heart to embrace the whole counsel of God found in the Bible. And give our lives in His service.

I. II Timothy 3:16 and 17: “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be equipped for every good work.”

II. Revelation 22:18 and 19: “I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God shall add to Him the plagues which are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.”

Therefore, handle the word with extreme care!