



We didn't look at John 7:53-8:11 as part of this series. Just in case anyone is curious about this, most biblical scholars today think that these verses were not originally in John's Gospel. They don't appear in the best early manuscripts, and when they do appear they are not always located here (sometimes they are located at the end of Luke's Gospel!) - and even when they are found here in John, they are sometimes marked off by the scribe to indicate some doubt about them. Situated here, the verses disrupt John's narrative, interrupting the Festival of Tabernacles. There is no reason to doubt that this story is historical - it was known in the early church - and circulated with the Gospels from quite early on, but it probably isn't by John. This shouldn't shake our faith in the Bible. In fact, we should be glad that scholars have done so much work on the text of the New Testament - we can be really confident in the Bible that we have because it has stood up to scrutiny.

John 8:12-20 - The Light of the World

Where have we already seen the image of light being used in John? What light might that shed (so to speak) on the way Jesus uses the image here?

How does the setting at the Feast of Tabernacles contribute to the image? Do you find the idea that Jesus is drawing on the image of the pillar of fire from Exodus convincing?

What does it mean to follow Jesus? How can we help each other in that?

Are the Pharisees wrong in the way they object to Jesus? (Compare John 5:31!)

Why should the Pharisees have believed Jesus? Do we have more reason to believe than them?

Why would Jesus have been in danger of arrest? How would the Pharisees have heard his talk about the Father?

Summarise the claims that Jesus makes for himself in these verses. How can they strengthen your faith and encourage you to keep following him?