

# TakeFive

Biblical insights for the week of October 7-11, 2019  
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## Conversations That Matter: *The Religious Leaders*

### Monday — John 8:1-11

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As we learn about the woman taken in adultery and the religious leaders, we see how humankind is gripped by sins such as hypocrisy, self-righteousness, judgmentalism, selfishness, and adultery. We might even notice that these same issues are still a reality today because many in our world live in darkness, without a Godly purpose.

In Chapter 8, Jesus reveals Himself to be the Light of the World, the One who offers freedom, forgiveness, meaning, and purpose to every life. While the truth is that we are all sinners, God provides each of us grace through our faith relationship with Jesus! Take a few minutes and talk to God about your relationship with Him. Thank Him for His love and forgiveness through the shed blood of Jesus.

### Tuesday — John 8:1-2

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In this interaction, we see a sharp contrast of lives. We see Jesus being quiet, compassionate, and worshipful, contrasted with the turbulent, self-centered, and judgmental lives of the religious leaders. Note that Jesus began His teaching early in the morning. It says that people “kept coming to Him,” and He “kept teaching them.” His mission in life was worshipping God, teaching and ministering to people.

This is such a beautiful picture of Jesus. He demonstrated how we should all walk through life: worshipping God, teaching, and ministering to people. The essence of “truth and grace.” We all need to know the truth, and we all need the ministry of grace. Pray today: “God, give us the capacity to live and love like Jesus. May we worship you by serving others through our words and deeds.”

### Wednesday — John 8:3-6

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Sin! Not a subject we like to talk about. The guilt of the woman. The sin of adultery that affects so many lives. Under Jewish law, anyone caught in adultery would be stoned to death. The guilt of the religious leaders and the public. Their sin of hypocrisy and self-righteous pride, claiming they were better than the woman. They even used scripture to attack her and support their right to condemn her.

Nowhere in this passage do you hear, “love your neighbor as yourself.” They did not love the woman, lead her out of sin, or offer a ministry of restoration and reconciliation to God. They did not see her as a beloved child of God. May we see each person as Jesus does, worthy of love.

### Thursday — John 8:7-9

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All of us are perfect and without sin. No! Let’s try that again. All of us are sinful and guilty of sin. The woman at the well was guilty of a very serious sin. The law said she was to be condemned to death. Her accusers and the people were legally justified in their charge. It would take a special person to stop the proceedings and even correct and rebuke the people.

Jesus was that special person! “He that is without sin, let him first cast the stone (vs. 7).” What a truth! What a shock! No man is without sin. Every one of the men standing there knew it, and every one of them was convicted within his conscience. They all left, leaving Jesus and the woman alone. “Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins (1 Peter 4:8).”

### Friday — John 8:10-11

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Sweet forgiveness! Jesus alone has the right to condemn and forgive. The picture of the woman at the well is a picture of every person. No one possesses righteousness on his or her own. Because of this, no one can condemn the woman or anyone else. The only righteousness and the only One who is not guilty of sin is Jesus Christ. He alone is worthy to stand in judgment, but He offers grace. Amazing grace!

Jesus did not condemn but gave a second chance: “For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him (John 3:17).” Jesus came to forgive: “Neither do I condemn you (vs. 11).” “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).”