

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
JOHN

THIRTY THREE 21 THREE
GOD REVEALED













THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
JOHN

The Story

John 7:53-8:11

⁵³ [[They went each to his own house, ^{8:1} but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. ² Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. ³ The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst ⁴ they said to him,

John 7:53-8:11

“Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. ⁵ Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?” ⁶ This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground.

John 7:53-8:11

⁷ And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.” ⁸ And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. ⁹ But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him.

John 7:53-8:11

¹⁰ Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” ¹¹ She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.”]]

The Cast

- Jesus
- The scribes and Pharisees
- The woman
- The crowd/mob

The Trap

- The law of Moses commanded us...what do you say?
 - If Jesus says 'Stone her' –
 - appearance of holiness, but
 - would lose the favor with the people
 - would definitely be in trouble with the Romans

The Trap

- The law of Moses commanded us...what do you say?
 - If Jesus says 'Don't stone her' –
 - contradicting Moses
 - teaching others to break the law
 - get in trouble with the Jewish authorities

The Response

- ...

John 7:53-8:11

“Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. ⁵ Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. **So what do you say?”** ⁶ This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. **Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground.**

John 7:53-8:11

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The Response

- Writes ?? in the sand

The Response

- Writes ?? in the sand
- **Reorients the religious leaders and the crowd – You want Justice?**
 - **Love God, Love your neighbor**

The Response

- Writes ?? in the sand
- Reorients the religious leaders and the crowd – You want Justice?
- **Disarms the trap**

The Response

- Writes ?? in the sand
- Reorients the religious leaders and the crowd – You want Justice?
- Disarms the trap
- **Saves the woman**

John 7:53-8:11

⁷ And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.” ⁸ And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. ⁹ But **when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones**, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him.

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The Response

- Writes ?? in the sand
- Reorients the religious leaders and the crowd
 - You want Justice?
- Disarms the trap
- Saves the woman
- **Boldly declares His authority to rightly interpret the Law**

The Story

Why is the Story in Brackets?

- A note or footnote tells us – “The earliest manuscripts do not include 7:53 – 8:11”
- What does that mean exactly?

The Story of The Story

The Story of the Story

- Begins in the Book of Acts
- The Church is growing, expanding
- Pentecost - the stories and teachings of Jesus are going everywhere

The Story of the Story

- Being written down - Mark (Peter), Luke (Eyewitnesses), Matthew, and John
- Paul is writing letters to churches all over
- His letters are being copied and distributed throughout the Roman world

The Story of the Story

- The Roman emperors do not like this
- Christians are not honoring the Roman gods
- Paul is executed by Nero in 67AD

The Story of the Story

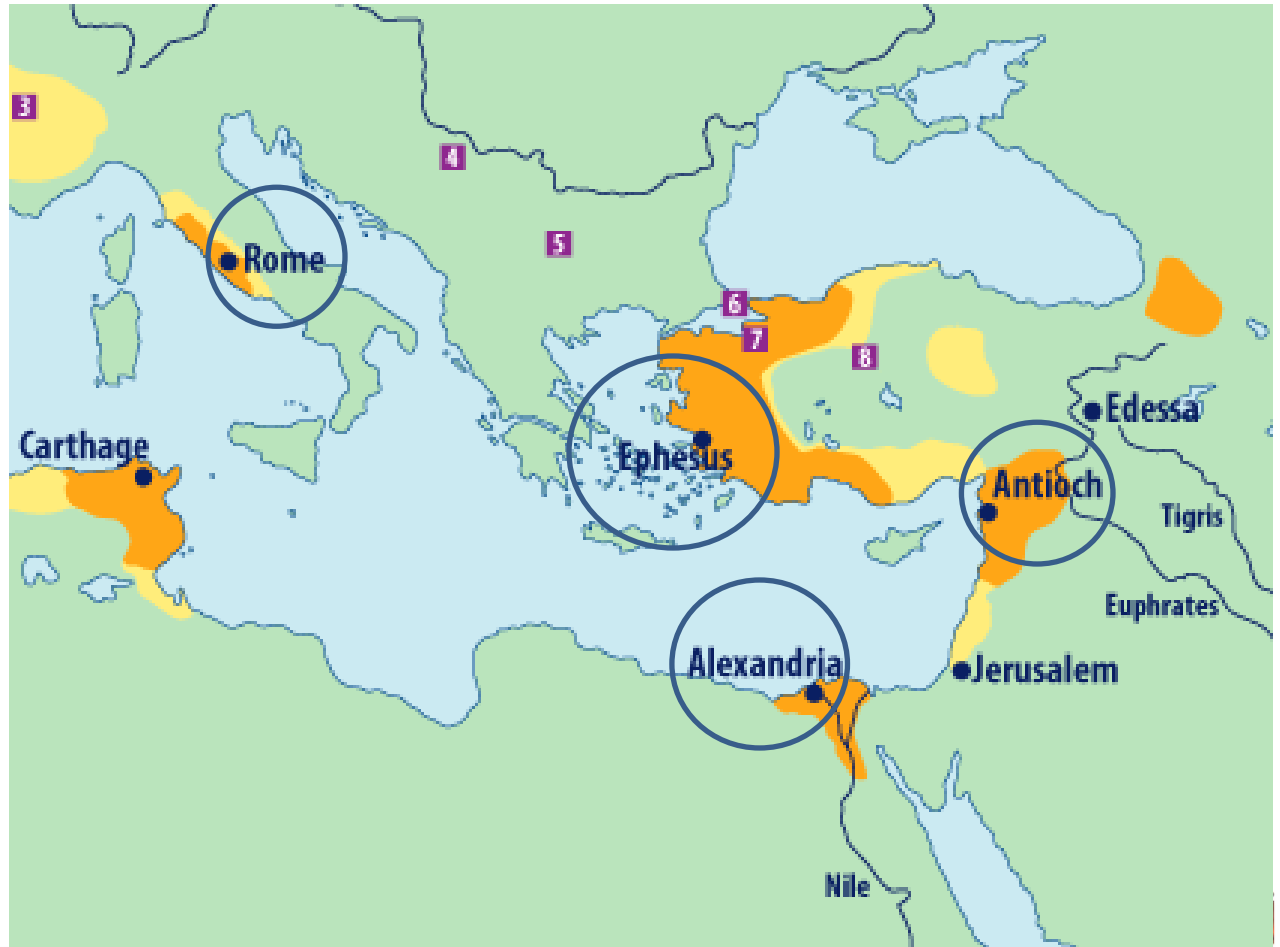
- By 100AD – all the Apostles are dead, and it's up to their disciples to pass on the true stories
- By 200AD there is general agreement on the true stories, teaching of Jesus – a canon
- By 300AD – Roman Emperor Diocletian is determined to wipe out Christianity

The Story of the Story

- Burning churches, holy books, writings and any Christians who will not recant.
- Writings about Jesus become more precious
- When Emperor Constantine ends the persecution of Christians (313AD) demand for writings skyrockets

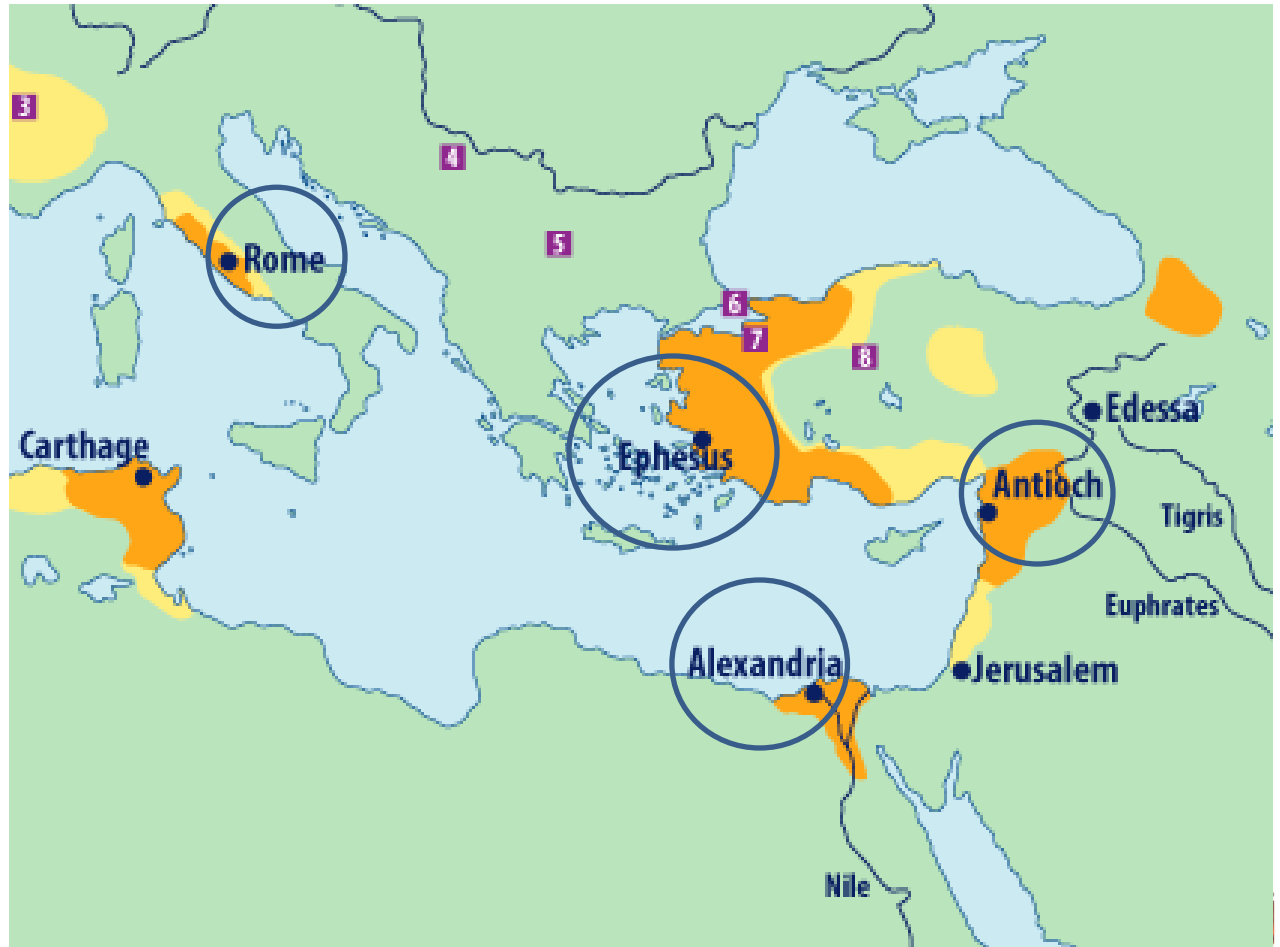
Copy Centers

- Italy
- Turkey
- Syria
- Egypt



Text Families

- Latin
- Byzantine
- Syriac
- Alexandrian



The Story of the Story

- Byzantine family (Ephesus) is huge and widespread – the Majority Text
- Erasmus – 1516 – creates first scholarly edition of the Greek New Testament – almost all from Byzantine family, 12th Century
- 1611 King James commissions an English version of the Bible – same sources

The Story of the Story

- Fast forward 200 years to the 1800-1900s
- The British Empire spreads across the world
- They are finding more and more of the New Testament and older versions from the other text families

The Story of the Story

- Suddenly we learn - Byzantine text family had some unique features
 - The Lord's Prayer – 'For thine is the Kingdom and the Power...'
 - A longer ending to Mark's gospel
 - The Woman Caught in Adultery

The Story of the Story

- So, did it really happen?
- Yes, and here's why I think so...

Did It Really Happen?

- The evidence in the text itself

Familiar Pattern

Luke 21:37 – “And every day he was teaching in the temple, but at night he went out and lodged on the mount called Olivet. And early in the morning all the people came to him in the temple to hear him.”

Familiar Pattern

Luke 11:53 – “The scribes and Pharisees began to press him hard and to provoke him to speak about many things, lying in wait for him, to catch him in something he might say.”

Familiar Pattern

Matthew 22:15– “Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words...Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?”

Familiar Pattern

Mark 12:18 – “The Sadducees came to Jesus...they asked him a question, saying, ‘Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies and leaves a wife, but leaves no child, the man must take the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. There were seven brothers...”

Familiar Pattern

John 5:14 – Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.”

Did It Really Happen?

- The evidence in the text itself

Did It Really Happen?

- The evidence in the text itself
- **The testimony from John 20:30**

Did It Really Happen?

- The evidence in the text itself
- The testimony from John 20:30
- **The evidence from history**

Did It Really Happen?

- The evidence in the text itself
- The testimony from John 20:30
- The evidence from history
- **The evidence from the church**

Did It Really Happen?

- The evidence in the text itself
- The testimony from John 20:30
- The evidence from history
- The evidence from the church
- **The evidence from the big idea/teaching**

The Impact of These Stories

What Is The Big Deal?

- Jesus was opposed on every side
 - And yet --- everything happened exactly as He intended
 - The most powerful, influential _____ could not stop Him.

What Is The Big Deal?

- Jesus was opposed on every side
 - And yet --- everything happened exactly as He intended
 - The most powerful, influential Religious Leaders could not trap Him.

What Is The Big Deal?

- Jesus was opposed on every side
 - And yet --- everything happened exactly as He intended
 - The most powerful, influential Political Leaders could not stop Him.

What Is The Big Deal?

- Jesus was opposed on every side
 - And yet --- everything happened exactly as He intended
 - The most powerful, influential Crowds could not deter Him.

Thank God This Week

- Thank God that Jesus did exactly what He set out to do...and always does!

What Is The Big Deal?

- Jesus was opposed on every side
- **Jesus was merciful to the woman**

What Is The Big Deal?

- Jesus was opposed on every side
- **Jesus was merciful to the woman**
 - **And He has been merciful to us!**

Thank God This Week

- Thank God that Jesus did exactly what He set out to do...and always does!
- **Thank God for the mercy extended to us through Jesus!**

What Is The Big Deal?

- Jesus was opposed on every side
- Jesus was merciful to the woman
- We have bibles all around us

How Does This Compare?

- There are 10 existing manuscripts of Julius Caesar's *Gallic Wars* (written 50BC). All of them date from the tenth century or later (gap~900yrs)
- Only 2 manuscripts exist for Tacitus' *Histories* and *Annals*, (written 100AD). One from the ninth and one from the eleventh century (gap~700 & 900yrs)

How Does This Compare?

- For the New Testament –
 - Over 5,000 Greek manuscripts
 - Over 10,000 Latin manuscripts
 - Over 9,000 other language manuscripts
 - Almost 25,000 copies or partial copies
 - Dating as early as 125AD
 - A gap of only ~60yrs

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- **Thank God for His word!**

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 - **The amount of the evidence**

What Is The Big Deal?

- Thank God that Jesus did exactly what He set out to do...and always does!
- Thank God that Jesus knows us completely and came to save us!
- **Thank God for His word!**
 - **The timing of the evidence**

What Is The Big Deal?

- Thank God that Jesus did exactly what He set out to do...and always does!
- Thank God that Jesus knows us completely and came to save us!
- **Thank God for His word!**
 - **The distribution of the evidence**

What Is The Big Deal?

- Thank God that Jesus did exactly what He set out to do...and always does!
- Thank God that Jesus knows us completely and came to save us!
- **Thank God for His word!**
 - **The preservation of the evidence**

What Is The Big Deal?

- Thank God that Jesus did exactly what He set out to do...and always does!
- Thank God that Jesus knows us completely and came to save us!
- **Thank God for His word!**
 - **The reliability of the evidence**

What Is The Big Deal?

- Thank God that Jesus did exactly what He set out to do...and always does!
- Thank God that Jesus knows us completely and came to save us!
- **Thank God for His word!**
 - **In it we learn what faith looks like and what our lives can look like**