



Summer Blockbuster Reading Challenge

3 months—4 Gospels—Go!

MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 2022



Take your Pulse

How rested are you feeling today from the weekend?

How many items on your list are still on the list to be done after this weekend?

Today's Reading

John Chapter 8

There is just so much to each chapter of John's gospel. It is hard to summarize in just a paragraph or two here in this box. I do want to lift up one interesting factoid about chapter 8. The opening story, of the woman caught in adultery, is believed to have been added by a later scribe, and may not be original to John's authorship. Scholars who study ancient manuscripts do not find this story in the earliest known manuscripts. Does that mean this story of Jesus forgiving a woman is not "gospel?" Can a story still be "gospel" and not original? This is the challenge in reading scripture. And it may point out why the Jewish authorities who argued with Jesus throughout the rest of chapter 8 were so argumentative. They were trying to figure out what was original and what was added later. Understanding faith has always been this complicated.



Start the Thinking

At our picnic at Lake Warren, Stepan and Olesia, the couple from Ukraine, asked why there were Swedish flags being displayed. I explained to them that the heritage of our congregation is Swedish. Ancestry is very important. For the Jewish authorities arguing with Jesus, their ancestry was Abraham. What is important about your ancestry?



Conversing with God

Light of the World, we yearn to hear the Word of God, to believe it more fully, and to do what our Father would ask us to do in the world. Help us to see that our connection with you is not dependent on ancestry, but on believing in Jesus. And with such belief we can do in the world as you do: love. In your holy name we pray. Amen



Be blessed

Brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ, our Savior, is alive! The grave could not hold him. Christ is alive! There is joy this morning! Go into the world with joy. Tell the world Christ lives. Tell the world of God's love. Go, my sisters and brothers, go without fear; go without shame; go without apology. Go in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.