

## **In Between**

March 23-28, 2026

### **Monday March 23rd, 2026**

Scripture John - 8:10-11 Jesus stood, and said to her, "Where are they? Did no man condemn you?" And she said, "No man, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go therefore and sin no more."

Observation: According to the author of John's gospel, Jesus is in Jerusalem and the Pharisees bring to Jesus a woman caught in the act of adultery; a crime worthy of the punishment of stoning.

Narrative: One of the more intriguing questions is, where is the man? Was this a setup from the very beginning? Perhaps the man of the adulterous act was one of those standing by and ready to cast a stone; maybe even one of the Pharisees?

Question: Any way the story is interpreted, the implied question is clear - Are we ready to apply to ourselves the same harsh standard we tend to apply to others?

### **Tuesday March 24th, 2026**

Scripture - John 8:26-27. I have many things to say and judge concerning you: The one who sent me is true; and the things which I have heard from him, I will speak to the world. They (Pharisees) did not perceive that he spoke to them of the Father.

Observation: Continuing on in the 8th chapter of John, where Jesus is talking to the crowd, and specifically the Pharisees. A discourse that is very theological and what they say is High Christology - making the case that Jesus is God.

Narrative: Even when the language and sentiment is clear, we often do not hear with clarity, because of our preconceived and conditioned frame of reference. Secular humanism? Relativism? Post-Modernity? Science and proof as the only truth/fact?

Question: What alternate world or social views do you feel is/are incapable of entertaining the concept and message that was Jesus?

## **Wednesday March 25th, 2026** (Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord)

Scripture – Luke 1: 35 The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the after, such a moment of blessing would probably inspire, sustain, and comfort her throughout her life. The most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God.'

Observation: The visit of the Angel Gabriel to Mary.

Narrative: Just as we say at baptism with the anointing that you are "sealed," so too Mary was "covered" with the Spirit and therefore the "child will be holy." Even though Mary's life would not be an easy one thereafter.

Question: Ever have a moment in your life when you felt "sealed" or "covered" with the Spirit, holiness, goodness, love? Was it inspirational, memorable, and comforting?

## **Thursday March 26th, 2026**

Scripture - John 8:51-53. Jesus said to them, "If a man keeps my word, he shall never see death." The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you are demon possessed. Abraham died, and the prophets, and yet you say, 'If a man keeps my word, he shall never taste death.' Are you greater than our father Abraham and the prophets who died."

Observation: The end to the 8th chapter of John during this week's daily readings where Jesus is talking to his fellow countryman and religious leaders. They did not like what he had to say, and either wanted to arrest him or stone him.

Narrative: Times change but the controversy around this person named Jesus remains. If you apply simple logic, as the Jews did in what Jesus was saying, it made no sense in the very least, and caused some of them to see Jesus as either mad or blasphemous, or both. In the age of science, facts, and skepticism, a similar flavor is put to Jesus when you ask someone to believe in a God no one can prove exists, in a resurrection that no one actually saw happen, and in a three-in-one mystery including the Spirit that defies science and common sense.

Question: How do you answer the skeptics and unbelievers when they claim such relative logic when compared to the seemingly outlandish claims of Christianity?

## **Friday March 27th, 2026**

Scripture - John 10:30. "I and the Father are one."

Observation: At this claim as being one with God, the Jews wished to stone him; for blasphemy as they would say.

Narrative: Several centuries later, the Muslims would and still do highly revere Jesus as a great prophet, but believe Christianity went astray when claiming Jesus as God.

Question: How do you explain the concept and reality of God, and Jesus' connection to that reality without boring people to sleep with theological platitudes?

## **Saturday March 28th 2026**

Scripture - John 11:47-48 The chief priests therefore and the Pharisees gathered a council, and said, "What do we do, for this man does many signs? If we leave him alone, all men will believe in him; and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation."

Observation: The Jewish leaders were responding to the miracle of bringing Lazarus back to life.

Narrative: Oops! Jesus was certainly asking for it; all the allusions to being God in front of the crowds and Jewish leaders, and then performing this miracle close to the Passover in the backyard of the religious leaders/elites while Jerusalem was flush with pilgrims AND with Romans watching the crowds very closely.

Question: Who do you know who kept to their principles in the face of obvious conflict and animosity from the leaders (secular or religious) at hand?