

## Jesus is the Light of the World (John 8:12-30)

### I. Jesus is the Light that Brings Life and Truth (12-19)

#### A. Jesus is the Light that Brings Life (12)

1. Remember the Feast of Tabernacles is going on
  - a. During the last night four large candlesticks were constructed in the court of the women. The candles were lit and the men sang songs and rejoiced celebrating God's protection over the people in the wilderness by the pillar of fire.
  - b. This was a time of great singing and rejoicing. – Have you seen how Jewish people celebrate and dance at weddings? Its like that with tens of thousands of people.
2. It was as these Candles were lit that Jesus stood in the crowd and said, "I am the light of the world. Those who follow me won't be in darkness. They will have eternal life.
3. Imagine the spectacle Jesus would have caused. This was the second time he used an image from their religious ceremony and drew attention to himself as the fulfillment.
4. The point here is that Jesus alone brings eternal life. He is the light that shines God's salvation into the dark world.

#### B. Jesus Himself is the Light that Brings Truth (13-16)

1. Jesus is True Despite People's Objections (13-14)
  - a. Religious and Sinful Men Will Find Fault in Jesus (13)
    - i. The Pharisees Accuse Jesus of lying (13)
      - a) They accuse him of contradicting himself. In John 5:31-32 Jesus said, *"If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true. There is another who testifies about me, and I know the testimony he testifies about me is true"*
        - Yet Jesus was making basically the same point. The Pharisees were taking his words out of context.
    - ii. They accuse him of testifying to build himself up.
      - a) The law of Moses required at least two witnesses to establish anything in a court of law. Deut. 19:15 says, *"A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established."*
      - b) They were implying Jesus could not simply testify about himself and expect them to believe him. He must appeal to a higher authority.

iii. The Lost will always deny Christ – they will look for reasons – they don't even have to be good ones.

b. Jesus' Word Establishes it's Own Truth (14)

i. Even if Jesus did testify alone – his witness would be true because of who He is.

a) He knows where he came from and where he is going

b) He is implying that He came from God and is going back to God therefore, his words are true regardless if they believe them or not.

ii. Jesus tells them they are ignorant of his claims

a) They don't know where he came from

b) They don't know where he is going

c) Next he will give them the reason they don't know – because they only judge according to the flesh

2. Jesus is True Because He Judges from Heaven (15-16)

a. Jesus does not judge according to the Flesh (15)

i. Jesus tells them they are ignorant of him because they are judging people according to the flesh.

a) They only look at the outside

b) They are spiritually dead and can't know spiritual things

c) no one can see the kingdom unless he is born again.

ii. Jesus does not judge according to the flesh

a) the Text says "I judge no man" but the Greek sentence an elliptical construction. An elliptical construction is one in which a word or phrase implied by context is omitted from a sentence, usually because it is a repetition of a preceding word or phrase.

b) Jesus' meaning here is that he judges no man the way the Pharisees do. He doesn't judge according to the flesh – He judges the way the Father in heaven judges.

c) In the next few verses it is clear that Jesus does render judgment – but his judgment is based on what men do with him – whether they accept him or reject him.

b. Jesus Judges According to the Father's Will (16)

i. Jesus is united with the Father in judgment

a) Even if he does Judge he doesn't judge alone

b) He judges with the Father who sent Him

ii. Jesus says that his judgment bears the authority of God

C. Jesus Proves His Testimony By Their Own Law (17-19)

1. Jesus Offer's Two Witnesses to Himself (17-18)

- a. In the law a matter is established by two witnesses (17)
- b. Jesus is one witness to his identity
- c. The Father who sent Jesus also bears witness about his identity
- d. Even by their own law which they claim to uphold so dearly, Jesus is vindicated – yet they do not know his Father

2. The Pharisees Question Jesus' Statement (19a)

- a. They ask, "who is your Father?"
- b. They don't understand that he is talking about God (see v. 27)
- c. They are spiritually dead so they do not accept Christ's words

3. Jesus Judges Them to be Ignorant of the Father (19b)

- a. Jesus declares they don't know him or the Father
- b. To know one is to know the other
- c. If they truly knew God they would accept Jesus
- d. If they knew who Jesus was they would accept him as being from God.
- e. No man can know God except through Jesus.

II. Jesus is the Light that Dispels All Darkness (20-29)

A. Jesus Brings a Warning to the Natural Man (20-24)

1. Jesus Warns them While Standing in the Temple (20-21)

- a. He proclaims his message openly in the treasury (20)
  - i. this is where the offerings were accepted for the temple
  - ii. This is where many high ranking priests and temple officers would be stationed close by.
  - iii. It is an absolute miracle that no one arrested him but once again we see that "his hour had not yet come"
- b. He Warns the Unbelievers of their Fate (21)
  - i. He tells them he is going away and they will seek him
  - ii. Here for the first time he says, "You will die in your sins"

a) those who cannot come with Christ will die in their sins

b) those who can go with Christ will not die in their sins

2. Jesus' Warning is Not Received by Natural Man (22-24)

- a. Unbelievers do not understand his meaning (22)
  - i. They think he is going to kill himself
  - ii. 1 Co. 2:14 - *the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned*
- b. His meaning is that He is from Heaven (23a)

- i. He tells them they are from below while he is from above
  - ii. They can't understand his meaning because they are ignorant of the things from above (i.e from God)
- B. Jesus' Warning is From Heaven and Will Come to Pass (25-29)
  - 1. Jesus Came to Speak For the Father (25-26)
    - a. Jesus is asked his identity (25)
      - i. They finally ask the direct question, "who are you."
      - ii. Jesus answers "that's what I have been telling you"
      - iii. They cannot get it because they are dead spiritually
    - b. Jesus Declares Himself to be from God (26)
      - i. Jesus has much more to say and to judge
      - ii. Jesus declares what he has heard from the Father to the world
      - iii. This is what it means to be the light of the world – to declare the word of God
  - 2. Jesus' Words are not received (Again) (v. 27)
    - a. They just didn't understand
    - b. They didn't know he was speaking about God THE Father
  - 3. Jesus' Sure Words Will Be Understood Eventually (28-29)
    - a. Jesus' Authority will be revealed to Unbelievers (28)
      - i. Jesus told them they will understand when he is crucified (lifted up)
      - ii. They will know that "I AM" – the "he" is supplied by the translators. Jesus was telling them that they would see that Jesus is God – The I AM
      - iii. Jesus speaks on the Father's authority
    - b. Jesus' Authority is Unified with the Father (29)
      - i. The Father is with Jesus
      - ii. The Father has not left Jesus alone
      - iii. Jesus always does the Father's will
      - iv. Jesus can say that what He says is God's word because He speaks exactly what the Father says.
      - v. They will know Jesus is from God in his crucifixion and resurrection – Jesus says that even though he will go through intense suffering – God has not left Him – God has actually sent him for this reason.

Verse 30 says that many believed on him. This sounds great but is very questionable because in the next section, Jesus will speak more directly to "those who believe" and by the end of the chapter he is calling them children of Satan and those who are blind. We will discuss this in the next lesson.