

The Light of the World – John 8



MEMORY VERSE: Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”
John 8:12

DAY 1 JOHN 8:1-11 — An Adulterous Trap

1. What does the timing of the intrusion of the Scribes and Pharisees with the adulterous woman reveal?
2. What was their accusation against the woman, and what was their motive? vv.3-6a
3. How did these teachers of the law twist Scripture? Deuteronomy 22:22
4. How did Jesus respond to her accusers and what was the outcome?

Psalm 90:8

Matthew 7:1-5

5. How do you reconcile these verses about judging with 1 Corinthians 5:9-13?

DAY 2 JOHN 8:12-20 — I AM the Light of the World

6. What does Jesus offer those who follow Him as the Light of the World? v.12

LEARN THE TRUTH

God cannot not overlook sin because sin brings death. But He would rather cover our sins than count them against us. Anyone who claims to be righteous stands condemned, but Jesus offers forgiveness and freedom from bondage to sin for anyone who confesses their sin and believes in Him.

7. How did the Pharisees challenge Jesus? Why was this especially hypocritical considering what they had just done in the temple? v.13

Deuteronomy 17:6-7

8. How did Jesus refute their claim that His testimony was not true, and what do you think each means? v.14

vv.15-16

vv.17-18

9. When asked where His Father was, why do you think Jesus answered as He did? vv.19-20

10. Have you ever asked God something and received a completely unexpected answer?

DAY 3 JOHN 8:21-30 — Two Opposite Worlds

11. What bold declaration did Jesus make? How did the Pharisees interpret His words? vv.21-22

12. Why were the Pharisees not able to go where Jesus was going? vv.23-24

13. Describe the two different worlds, or kingdoms, that Jesus was talking about. v.23 and Scriptures

Luke 18:30

1 John 2:15-17

1 John 4:1-5

14. What did the Pharisees fail to understand? vv.25-27

15. What truths did Jesus express about Himself and His Father? vv.28-30

DAY 4 JOHN 8:30-47 — Freedom vs. Slavery

16. What did Jesus want the “Jews who had believed in Him” to understand? vv.30-32

17. Were the Jews correct in their response to Jesus about Abraham and slavery? Why or why not?
vv. 33-38

18. What evidence proves these particular Jews were not Abraham’s legitimate children? vv.39-43

19. How did Jesus describe their actual father and his impact on them? vv.44-47

20. Satan is a liar and a deceiver. Is there an area in your thinking where he has deceived you, causing you to be unable to hear, value or apply God’s Word to your life?

21. Read this whole section and note the ways the Jews upped their attack against Jesus. vv.48-59
22. What stands out to you in Jesus' words to the crowd who so vehemently opposed Him? vv.49-52
23. How did Jesus describe His relationship with God compared to His accuser's relationship with God? vv.54-55
24. Explain your understanding of what Jesus said about Himself and Abraham. vv.56-58
vv.56-57
- v.58
25. Why do you think the Jews kept their hope in Abraham instead of Jesus, the Light of the World?

LOVE THE TRUTH

Jesus, the Light of the World, offers us the light of life, freedom from bondage to sin, the ability to know the truth that sets us free, and the promise that we will never see death if we believe in Him and abide in His word. May you fully experience these truths in your own life as you abide in Him.

John 8

The Light of the World

As Jesus continued to teach truth and offer life to any who would believe, the religious leaders continued to try to trap Him so they could find grounds to execute Him. The scribes and Pharisees, who should have been leading people to God, godliness and a deeper understanding of Scripture, were instead plotting and scheming against the very One God spoke through. They were envious of Him to the point of seeking His death. (Mark 15:10) The hypocritical teachers of the law conveniently forgot that the man and the woman caught in adultery were both to be stoned, not just the woman. (Leviticus 20:10) If Jesus concluded that the woman should not be stoned, the religious leaders would accuse Him of violating God's law. If He told them to stone her, He would be violating Roman law, which forbade Jews to perform executions. They put Jesus in a lose/lose situation. There is no record in Scripture of Jesus ever writing except in this moment when He wrote in the ground, as He waited for anyone who was "without sin" to cast the first stone. Perhaps He wrote names, or a convicting Scripture, "O Lord, the hope of Israel, all who forsake you shall be put to shame; those who turn away from you shall be written in the earth, for they have forsaken the Lord, the fountain of living water." (Jeremiah 17:13) Whatever He wrote caused the crowd to leave one by one. Then Jesus said to the woman what He also says to us, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and sin no more." (v.11)

Jesus' response to questions did not always seem to line up with what had been asked. God cuts to the chase. He sees through our pretense, ignorance, worldly wisdom and selfish desires, and answers us according to our actual need. We are surrounded by worldly reasoning and philosophy. "Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God." (James 4:4) Our home is not in this world, but in His heavenly kingdom. Jesus said, "everyone who commits sin is a slave to

sin," (v.34) and the Jews insisted that, as Abraham's offspring, they had never been enslaved to anyone. But they were in fact enslaved in Egypt and Babylon and were currently under Roman rule. Do we really recognize when we are enslaved? We cannot be free if we do not have Christ, and we cannot be free if we hold onto the world and what it has to offer. Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?" (Luke 9:23-25)

WALK IN TRUTH



Some Jews believed Jesus was the Messiah, but the majority failed to recognize Him. Jesus said they, "could not bear to Hear His word," (v.43) and instead pinned their hope on their ancestral bloodline from Moses. When God told Moses to lead His people out of slavery in Egypt, He said of Himself, "I AM WHO I AM," the omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient, self-existent God. (Exodus 3:14) Jesus made the same claim when He said to the Jews, "Before Abraham was, I AM." (v.58)

Rather than standing in judgment of those who fail to recognize Jesus, we must search our own hearts, and not only believe in Him, but abide in Him as we can all be unable to "bear hearing" some aspect of His word. We must recognize our own sin and remove the log from our own eye. Only then can we help someone else get the nasty speck out of their eye. If you want to grow in the grace and truth of the Light of the World, start each day with a clean slate of forgiveness.

Notes