

## **Life in His Name – Part 20**

### **Jesus Is the Light of the World – John 8:12-30**

Crosspoint – Dave Spooner – June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023

#### **Intro:**

- Jesus makes incredibly audacious claims about Himself and what will happen to us without Him. What are we to make of this? The guards who were assigned by the religious authorities to bring Jesus in concluded, “No one every spoke the way this man does” (John 7:36) after undoubtedly hearing religious teaching of all sorts, day, after day, after day.
- Their conclusion was right. Indeed, no one has ever spoken the way Jesus spoke, and claimed the things Jesus claimed, and done the things Jesus did. No one ever, even though there have been imposters and posers of all sorts throughout the ages. There is and will never be anyone as Jesus is.
- You and I and all people have to come to terms with His claims and His teaching. We have to decide what we are to make of this man, and truly consider what He taught. Indeed, Jesus does make incredibly audacious claims about Himself, and about what will happen to us without Him. Our passage today includes these things.
- May God illuminate our minds today to grasp the reality of what is said in this passage, and may God grant us the grace to believe and be saved.

#### **John 8:12 NIV**

**When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”**

#### **Understand that Jesus is the light of the world.**

- This is an audacious claim. “I am the light of the word.” Whoa. This is stark. This is startling. Now, to readers of the book of John, this imagery of light had already been seen. John has been setting us up for this statement by Jesus. Do you remember how John talked about Jesus at the opening of this Gospel?

#### **John 1:1-4 ESV**

**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

- And in John 3, in His conversation with Nicodemus, Jesus uses the same language of light.

#### **John 3:18-21 ESV**

**And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. 20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. 21 But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”**

- And now here we are in chapter eight where Jesus plainly states that He is “the light of the world.” He is not just *a* light among many, but *the* light of the world. It is Jesus or darkness;

there is no other light. If we follow Him, we will never walk in darkness and we will have the light of life. Through Him, we see all things clearly, and without Him, we are gropingly blind and hopelessly lost in darkness. But He says, “I am the light,” follow me. If you do, you will have the light of life.

- Who do you follow? What “light” is leading you? If you say you follow Jesus, how closely are you following Him? The closer you are, the clearer you see. The closer you are, the greater safety you have and greater confidence, peace, and life. Don’t wander around in the darkness while beholding the distant light. Follow Him. The closer, the better.
- You and I have to do business with this claim of Jesus. You either believe in Him, and follow, or you do not. The Pharisees, for one, did not come to Him because their deeds were evil, especially evil, because they cloaked their evil hearts in religion. So they challenged this claim of Jesus.

### **John 8:13 NIV**

**The Pharisees challenged him, “Here you are, appearing as your own witness; your testimony is not valid.”**

- Just because someone claims something does not make it true. In this case, the Pharisees were saying that Jesus’s testimony was not valid because He was appearing as His own witness. So . . .

### **John 8:14-18 NIV**

**Jesus answered, “Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where I came from and where I am going. But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going. 15 You judge by human standards; I pass judgment on no one. 16 But if I do judge, my decisions are true, because I am not alone. I stand with the Father, who sent me. 17 In your own Law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is true. 18 I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father, who sent me.”**

### **Understand that Jesus stands with the Father.**

- Jesus defends His claim by saying: my testimony is true, I know where I am from, I know where I am going, I know who I am, and you have no idea about these things. You judge incorrectly because you judge by human standards. But if I did judge, my judgment is true. You know why? Because I came from the Father, I was sent by the Father, I stand with the Father, and I am going back to Him. If you want your two witnesses, that is fine. I am one, and the Father is the other.
- The Pharisees, who claimed to be the ones who could see and who understood, then asked,

### **John 8:19 NIV**

**Then they asked him, “Where is your father?” “You do not know me or my Father,” Jesus replied. “If you knew me, you would know my Father also.”**

- To know Jesus is to know the Father, and if you have Jesus, you have the Father. You cannot have the Father without the Son, and you cannot have the Son without the Father. They are different beings and the only true God.
- This is, again, an audacious claim. It is either true and He speaks the truth, or it is false and He speaks lies. What do you believe? And will you follow Him?

### **John 8:20 NIV**

**He spoke these words while teaching in the temple courts near the place where the offerings were put. Yet no one seized him, because his hour had not yet come.**

- John grounds Jesus's teaching in reality, and the response in sovereignty.

### **John 8:21-24 NIV**

**Once more Jesus said to them, "I am going away, and you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I go, you cannot come."**

**22 This made the Jews ask, "Will he kill himself? Is that why he says, 'Where I go, you cannot come'?"**

**23 But he continued, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. 24 I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins."**

**Understand that without Jesus you will die in your sins.**

- This is another audacious claim and an incredible statement packed with implications of the highest importance. Jesus said that He was going away, which He did. If they were still looking for a different messiah after He was gone, they would die in their sins. He was going back to the Father, and without believing in who He is, they cannot come.
- Jesus claimed that He came from above, and in contrast, all of humanity is from below, from this world. He was not from this world. And we, being of this world, will die in our sins if we do not believe that He is, that He is I AM, that He is the Christ, the Son of God. We can either die in our sin or die to our sin and be reborn in Christ.
- You can die in your sin or believe in the one who died for your sins. Any way you look at it, sin is a huge issue. It is an offense to the justice, glory, and perfection of God. It is a rebellion against who He is and a perversion of what He created us to be. Jesus came to us in truth, in this truth. And He also came to us in grace, amazing grace. We see in Jesus the truth and justice of God, and the grace and love of God. But we must believe in Jesus and be found in Jesus, the one who carries us and holds us fast.
- Jesus made the claim and teaching clear. Either you believe and come to Him and the light of life, or you will die in the darkness of your sin. You either cling to Him as a drowning man to a life raft, or you will sink in your sin into the darkness. Will you believe? Do you believe? Then cling to Him and treasure Him above all things and all others.
- Even in this, the Pharisees did not believe.

### **John 8:25-29 NIV**

**"Who are you?" they asked.**

**"Just what I have been telling you from the beginning," Jesus replied. 26 "I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is trustworthy, and what I have heard from him I tell the world."**

**27 They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father. 28 So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he and that I do**

**nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. 29 The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.”**

**Understand that Jesus is one with the Father.**

- When they asked Him who He was, He said, “I have been telling you.” When I speak, I speak from God, and for God, and as God. When I am “lifted up” (crucified), then you will see that I AM He. I am the Son of Man (the title from Daniel 7). I AM the Son of God. I AM the Christ. This is what I came to do, to save my people from their sins, and I speak the words of the Father, doing the will of the Father because I have the heart of the Father. He is with me, and I am with Him. I AM one with the Father.

**John 8:30 NIV**

**Even as he spoke, many believed in him.**

**Conclusion**

- Jesus makes incredibly audacious claims about Himself and what will happen to us without Him. So again, I ask you today, what do you do with Jesus? Who do you say He is? Will you believe in Him? My hope is that you will run to Him, cling to Him, and follow Him as the life and light of the world.