

In The Beginning Was The Word

John 8:12-20

INTRODUCTION: JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Having spoken to the adulterous woman Jesus told her to go and sin no more.

Perhaps this was a believing woman because she did call Jesus Lord.

Jesus did not condemn her in spite of what sin she had committed, but the emphasis from the Lord was to sin no more. This is in stark contrast to what the Jews had in mind for judgment. Instead the Lord brought his grace and mercy upon her, and perhaps this was because she was a believer and had called Jesus Lord.

We can learn a great lesson of forgiveness by this one verse which the Lord had spoken. Judgment remains that of God, and we have no right to sit in judgment of others. The thorn is bigger in our eyes than theirs and we should consider removing it first from ourselves before we try and remove it from others. For how can we see clearly when our eyes are blinded by the very sin we have.

- **Matthew 7:5**⁵ Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

Whilst our lives are in full darkness, Jesus is the light and his word can shine and illuminate our way. The scripture calls him the light even in the OT.

- **Psalms 119:105**¹⁰⁵ Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

But as we get into John 8: and in verses 12-20, John reminds us of that light.

During this time that Jesus was still teaching and preaching in the temple, as he returned from the mount of Olive's or mount Olivet, he had much to teach the people.

Jesus was speaking in the part of the Temple known as the treasury (John 8:20), where candles burned to symbolize the pillar of fire that led the people of Israel through the wilderness (Exodus 13:21,22). In this context, Jesus called himself the light of the world.

- **Exodus 13:21**²¹ And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:

The pillar of fire represented God's presence, protection, and guidance. It was the light of the fire that led them to safety.

John 8:12-20.

¹² Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

1. The idea of speaking to them again illustrates to us that Jesus had already been speaking to them about the issues of who he was and again addressed them in the same light.
2. In fact he used that word to demonstrate who he was and still is.
3. He said that he was the **I am the light of the world.** The **world** is an all encompassing "**word**" used to describe the place of his power and dominion over it, and there is no escape from it unless you die. Jesus by saying that he was the light of the world meant that he was capable of ruling over the whole world.
4. The word "**light**" is a term used of righteousness.
5. Whenever the night shadows fall upon us we cannot see where we are going unless we have light to illuminate our way to walk. With the Lord when he uses that term he uses it in a spiritual as well as a physical term.
6. Just like in the OT when God led the Israelites in the wilderness because it was so dark at night to move and they did not know in which direction to go. But he did not only provide light to help them walk in the right direction physically, he also provided the light of His word to help them walk in the direction spiritually.
7. Today and then is no different when it comes to the Light of the Gospel and our Lord.
8. But here in our text Jesus reminds the Jews of Him being that light. The light is used in the context of salvation. In other words Jesus is telling them that He is the Salvation of the world.
9. The Apostle Paul when speaking to the Church later on in scripture again makes reference to these words that were used by Jesus in the OT and now here in John 8:12.

Exodus 13:21

And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and **by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light;** to go by day and night:

Nehemiah 9:12

Moreover thou leddest them in the day by a cloudy pillar; and in the **night by a pillar of fire, to give them light in the way wherein they should go.**

Nehemiah 9:19

Yet thou in thy manifold mercies forsookest them not in the wilderness: the pillar of the cloud departed not from them by day, to lead them in the way; neither the pillar of fire by night, **to shew them light, and the way wherein they should go.**

- The scriptures that were told to the Corinthian Church were the same scriptures of light that the Lord used.

1 Corinthians 10 ¹ Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;² And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;³ And did all eat the same spiritual meat;⁴ And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and **that Rock was Christ.**

- Again here we see a lovely account of the Lord in the OT before he was incarnate in the flesh.

10. When Jesus used these words in the Temple he already knew the Jews spiritual condition. **he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness.** The Jews had not recognized Jesus as the Messiah and did not recognize him certainly as God. They were after all waiting for what they termed the real Messiah to come as we saw in John 7:27 and 7:31. But yet Jesus did not leave the sense there in midway but concluded that if they were prepared to recognize him as the light of the world then, and then only then would he say, **“but shall have the light of life”.**
11. In other words the **“the light of life”** is the salvation that Jesus would offer to them in return for believing he is God.

John 7:27²⁷ Howbeit we know this man whence he is: but when Christ cometh, no man knoweth whence he is.

John 7:31³¹ And many of the people believed on him, and said, When Christ cometh, will he do more miracles than these which this man hath done?

- As we saw earlier these verses are full of unbelief. They had placed their belief in a man who they said was not God. Therefore if you do not believe that Jesus is God, and you believe that Jesus is only a man like they did then you cannot be saved. This was the problem of the Jews.

In the OT we see great revelation as to the light of the world, so the Jews could not say that they never knew.

Psalm 27:1

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalm 36:9

For with thee is the fountain of life: **in thy light shall we see light.**

- In John opening gospel message to the Jews and to us, one of his first statements was in reference to Jesus being the light.

John 1:4 In him was life; **and the life was the light of men.**

- This light John referred to and what Jesus is referring to is the same thing. That is Jesus is the light which is Salvation.

12. Something that we perhaps all miss in this verse 12 of our text is the very middle part of the words of the Lord in this verse. It is the part where he says **“he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness.”** It's easy to say that you will follow, but the truth of the matter is that Jesus said, **he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness.** If we following Jesus then we should not be walking in darkness. The moment we stop following the Lord we are then walking in darkness.

13. But it does not have to be like that the Lord says. Because if you follow him then and only then you **“shall have the light of life”.**

13 The Pharisees therefore said unto him, Thou bearest record of thyself; thy record is not true.

1. One way to show your unbelief is to be a skeptic of the Lord, and what he says.
2. People, who question what Jesus says, are not convinced in their hearts that Jesus is God, or not even convinced that they are sinners in need of a savior.
3. Instead the Skeptic “leads himself” to believe that he has all the answers and does not need to be told what to believe.

➤ It's the same as what the scripture says

Psalm 14:1 The **fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.** They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.

4. It is this person who questions everything to the end degree about what God has said. By this I am not and the scripture is not talking about the person who desires to know the scriptures about God and therefore studies to show himself approved. (Tim 2:15).

2 Timothy 2:15 **Study to shew thyself approved** unto God, **a workman** that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

5. However this was not the case with the Jews present in the Temple by the treasury that Jesus was teaching and preaching to. These Jews had a hidden agenda to cause the Lord physical harm.
6. The Pharisees again accused the Lord of his teachings. Two things they accused him of was,

a) **Thou bearest record of thyself;**

b) **thy record is not true.**

7. They had taken upon themselves to judge the Lord despite of what the OT had warned them about. They argued that Jesus was seeking to promote himself and therefore declared his teachings to be untrue.

- Just like there are many people who despite having read in the scriptures what God instructs them to do, they will not obey and will not do what he tells them to do in the scriptures.
- A self motivated religious person always comes with his own writings on religious matters and fails to do what God says. Let them be warned of their salvation.

8. It does not matter what is written, a person will seek whatever means possible to carry out his own political agenda.

14 Jesus answered and said unto them, Though I bear record of myself, yet my record is true: for I know whence I came, and whither I go; but ye cannot tell whence I come, and whither I go.

1. A Bumper sticker said. God said it I believe it that settles it.
2. The truth of the matter is it does not matter whether you believe it. The truth of the matter is that if God said it he said it. That's what matters.
3. It does not matter if people like the Jews care to believe it or not. An instruction from God is an instruction. Failure to believe it will one day come with a judgment accordingly. So let's take our choice on that matter.
4. For Jesus, who is God by the way, to have shown this amount of grace and mercy at a time when the Jews were antagonizing him, shows us the Lords great amount of patience and mercy of people who are really not worthy of it.
5. It shows us his love, and compassion on a fallen nation. (Romans 11:28)
6. The Jews especially are in need of a change of heart. Again Jesus confirms his deity of one who is not from this world. Bearing record of himself and hoping that they will believe him for truths sake by faith.

¹⁵ **Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man.**

1. Jesus showed this with the woman brought to him in adultery. He never judged her then, but exposed her sin, and told her to sin no more.
2. Jesus showed this with the woman at the well. He exposed her sin and told her to sin no more as well.
3. Why did he have mercy on these two woman who would otherwise have been put to death by stoning? – It was because they were the ones which believed in him as Jesus the Messiah. Grace always prevails upon repentance.
4. The Jews did not repent and still do not believe, so Jesus has stayed his mercy from them until now. They still abide in unbelief.
5. The Jews judged as a result of the Law. They had no grace.
6. When Jesus said **“I judge no man”**, he was referring to this time period before he would return again. In this time period which is the here and now before his ultimate return he would allow by his grace for the rain to fall on the just and the unjust. But in that day to come then there would be a judgment for mans ignorance of God and for what he has and has not done. (Matt 5:45).
 - Man is already condemned if he does not call upon the savior. Sin has already caused the fall of man in that respect, and man has been separated from God because of sin which began in Adam.
 - Jesus came to seek and to save that which is already lost. So judgment only comes after the return of Christ.

John 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: **but he that believeth not** is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to **seek and to save** that **which was lost**.

- Man was already lost at the fall of Adam. (Romans 5:14).

Romans 5:12 ¹² Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

¹⁶ And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not alone, but I and the Father that sent me.

1. From this verse we see that Jesus will judge one day.
2. Also his judgment will be true as he said in the previous verse as well. He will be in the presence of His Father, as the Lord says.
3. In the scriptures Jesus tells us that he will be the judge. And when he judges he will not be alone, His Father will be there to.

2 Timothy 4 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

John 5:22 ²² For the Father judgeth no man, but **hath committed all judgment unto the Son:**

John 5:30 ³⁰ I can of mine own self do nothing: **as I hear, I judge**: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

- Let those people who do not hold Christ in high esteem let them think again on these verses.

¹⁷ It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true.

1. This is a direct reference to Deuteronomy 17:6 and Deuteronomy 19:15.

Deuteronomy 17:6 ⁶ At the **mouth of two witnesses**, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death.

Deuteronomy 19:15 ¹⁵ One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.

2. When the Jews started accusing Jesus of self motivation to his teaching and preaching, the Lord Jesus began to quote to the Jews their own scriptures. Here Jesus starts with Deuteronomy establishing his witnesses.
3. The first question he asked them was what does their Law, which is the OT say about witnessing.
4. Once he established that for them, he gives his answer to them.

¹⁸ I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me.

1. The Lord points out his witness. He bears witness with God the Father.
2. Establishing another round with confirmation of His Deity.
3. Even as the Lord points them to their Law of the scriptures they disregarded that answer by asking another question.

4. This is a common tactic that many people use to deflect any blame from them when they are in confrontation.

¹⁹ Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.

1. Again these questions of unbelief are shown in the Jews response.
2. Remember Jesus was trying to teach and preach to them, but instead he encounters their animosity towards him.
3. By asking where Jesus Father is, was a sure sign of their unbelief. They had definitely thought of Jesus as an earthly man, with earthly parents as we saw before in John 6:46.
4. This was now a repeated question. They already thought of him as earthly.

John 6:42 ⁴² And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?

5. If and when we read the scriptures we not only get to know God the Father in heaven but we also get to know God the Son also now in heaven.
6. The question is you need to read the scriptures to know and establish that for yourselves.

²⁰ These words spake Jesus in the treasury, as he taught in the temple: and no man laid hands on him; for his hour was not yet come.

1. The administration of the gospel message was definitely clearly and truthfully declared by the Lord Jesus to those people who had come to the Temple in the treasury to hear.
2. They had heard what we have heard today and through the scriptures that we have today the very same message of salvation in Christ was said.
3. It is not an excuse to say that you never heard or could not understand.
4. It is only the excuse of unbelief if we will not take the Lord Jesus at His Word.

Even though the Jews tried to apprehend Jesus to put him to death at that stage, they could not because His Father's will that he had come to implement was not yet done.

- Man cannot simply do things unless God allows it.
- God allowed His Son to be the ultimate sacrifice which would be a price more than sufficient to pay for the penalty of our Sin.

PRAYER.....CLOSE