

Jesus: Light of the World

In this Series...

1. We will learn that light and darkness are different worlds that compete and conflict with each other.
2. We will learn that God is light, and Christians can live in, and shine forth, the light of God's love.

Note:

We are not going to include John 8:1-11 in our study:

1. The earliest and most reliable manuscripts do not include it.
2. It doesn't fit into the timeframe of the story.

The Title

"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."... ²⁰ He spoke these words while teaching in the temple area near the place where the offerings were put. Yet no one seized Him, because His time had not yet come." - John 8:12,20

This story continues to take place in the temple area and in fact in the Court of Women.

There were 13 treasuries there; (1 & 2 for everyone, 3 & 4 for women for purification; 5, wood, 6. incense; 7. instruments; 8 through 13 for general giving.)

"When Jesus spoke again..." ...may refer back to chapter 7.

Just as He had used their tradition to announce that He was the Living Water, now He calls Himself the Light of the World.

"I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles." - Isaiah 42:6
"But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings." - Malachi 4:2

At the conclusion of the water-pouring at the Feast of Tabernacles there was the lighting of the four menorahs. Historians tell us that these lights "lit up every courtyard in the city."

"Follows me...?" Remember the Pillar of Light in the wilderness?

This is the second of the "I Am" statements in the Gospel of John.

The Testimony

"The Pharisees challenged Him, "Here you are, appearing as your own witness; your testimony is not valid." ¹⁴Jesus 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. ¹⁵You judge by human standards; I pass judgment on no one. ¹⁶But if I do judge, my decisions are right, because I am not alone. I stand with the Father, who sent me. ¹⁷In your own Law it is written that the testimony of two men is valid. ¹⁸I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father, who sent me."
¹⁹Then 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." ²⁰He spoke these words while teaching in the temple area near the place where the offerings were put. Yet no one seized Him, because His time had not yet come." - John 8:13-20

The Pharisees chide Jesus with His own words.

"If I testify about myself, my testimony is not valid."

- John 5:31

Jesus declared that His testimony is true because:

- As God, He is not held to human standards.
- His father is His second witness. (They misunderstood "father.")

The Truth

"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." ²²This made the Jews ask, "Will He kill Himself? Is that why He says, "Where I go, you cannot come?" ²³But He continued, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. ²⁴I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins." ²⁵"Who are you?" they asked. "Just what I have been claiming all along," Jesus replied. ²⁶"I have much to say in judgment of you. But He who sent me is reliable, and what I have heard from Him I tell the world." ²⁷They did not understand that He was telling them about His Father. ²⁸So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am the one I claim to be and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. ²⁹The one who sent me is with me; He has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases Him." ³⁰Even as He spoke, many put their faith in Him."

- John 8:21-30

Jesus said that they could not follow Him to His death.

They assumed this to be the blackest part of hell. (Kill Himself?)

Jesus said that they would not be with Him for three reasons:

They were "From below"; they were "of the world"; and they did not believe that He was Christ and God.

The Jews asked, "who are you?" which showed that either they hadn't understood, or they had rejected Him. (Note Jesus words considering His identity.) (John 10:33)

Jesus told them about the future and gave praise to His Father.

... And many did understand!

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