

Jesus is the Light of the World [part 1] (John 8:12-20)

Scripture Text (Part 1)

12. Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."
13. So the Pharisees said to Him, "You are testifying about Yourself; Your testimony is not true."
14. Jesus answered and said to them, "Even if I testify about Myself, My testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from or where I am going."
15. You judge according to the flesh; I am not judging anyone.
16. But even if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone in it, but I and the Father who sent Me.
17. Even in your law it has been written that the testimony of two men is true.
18. I am He who testifies about Myself, and the Father who sent Me testifies about Me."
19. So they were saying to Him, "Where is Your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither Me nor My Father; if you knew Me, you would know My Father also."
20. These words He spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one seized Him, because His hour had not yet come.

Outline

- I. Jesus the Light of the World (v.12)
- II. True Testimony of Jesus (vv.13-14)
- III. The Judgement of the Pharisees contrasted with that of Jesus and the Father (vv.15-16)
- IV. The Testimony of Two is True (vv.17-20)

Worksheet (part 1)

- I. Jesus the Light of the World (v.12)
 - a. "Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, 'I am the Light of the world;...' (v.12a)
 - i. The word "**again**" lets us know that He is still talking to the same people He was talking to at the Feast of Booths (Tabernacles) in John 7:52
 - ii. Read from John 7:52 into John 8:12 to see how the narrative flows

- iii. Jesus claims to be the _____ of the world, as another object lesson related to the Feast of Booths (Tabernacles), namely the “lighting ceremony”.
 - iv. The “lighting ceremony” involved the lighting of four large lamps in the temple’s court of women to give light to those who were celebrating in dance and singing songs of praise.
 - v. This was the second element of the feast that He used to illustrate who He is, the first being the “water-drawing” tradition where the water was drawn from the Pool of Siloam in a golden vessel and carried in a priestly procession back to the temple where it was offered to God in hopes that good crops would be harvested for the year. (John 7:37-39)
 - vi. This is the _____ “I AM” statement that Jesus made about Himself, “I am the bread of life” being the _____.
- b. “...he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.” (v.12b)
- i. What is the litmus test or characteristic or quality that true followers of Jesus possess as stated in this verse?

 - ii. Jesus had many “followers” during His earthly ministry, what kind of followers is He making reference to in this verse?

 - iii. “...Thus the Lord my God will come, And all the saints with You. It shall come to pass in that day That there will be no light; The lights will diminish. It shall be one day Which is known to the Lord — Neither day nor night. But at evening time it shall happen That it will be **light**. And in that day it shall be That **living waters** shall flow from Jerusalem, Half of them toward the eastern sea And half of them toward the western sea; In both summer and winter it shall occur. And the Lord shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be— “The Lord is one,” And His name one. (Zechariah 14:5b-9 NKJV)
 - iv. This passage may have been part of the liturgical readings for the Feast of Tabernacles (Booths) because of its reference to “water” and “light” and the use of the symbolic elements of the “water-drawing” and “Lighting” ceremonies during the feast.
 - v. **Liturgy**: a form of public worship; ritual; a collection of formularies for public worship; a particular arrangement of services.
- II. True Testimony of Jesus (vv.13-14)
- a. “...You are testifying about Yourself; Your testimony is not true.” (v.13)

- i. This should sound familiar to you as we read from the book of John, where else did this discourse take place? (John 5:30-31)
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- ii. Jesus repeats, once again, what He had been saying from the beginning, but now with more forceful language. Is this sometimes necessary when trying to reach or communicate with people? *[discussion]*
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- iii. What was the basis of the Jew's statement concerning the testimony of Jesus? (Deut. 17:6; 19:15)
1. "Whoever is deserving of death shall be put to death on the testimony of two or three witnesses; he shall not be put to death on the testimony of one witness." (Deuteronomy 17:6 NKJV)
 2. "One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; **by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established.** If a false witness rises against any man to testify against him of wrongdoing, then both men in the controversy shall stand before the Lord, before the priests and the judges who serve in those days. **And the judges shall make careful inquiry, and indeed, if the witness is a false witness, who has testified falsely against his brother, then you shall do to him as he thought to have done to his brother; so you shall put away the evil from among you.** And those who remain shall hear and fear, and hereafter they shall not again commit such evil among you. Your eye shall not pity: life shall be for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot." (Deuteronomy 19:15-21 NKJV)
 3. Contrast this with Matthew's account of Jesus' false trial: "Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, but found none. Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none. But at last **two false witnesses** came forward and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.' "(Matthew 26:59-61 NKJV)
 - a. The Rulers of the Jews got the letter _____, but got the substances _____.
 - b. They made sure they got two "witnesses", but disregarded the purpose of the two witnesses of Deut. 19:15-21
[discussion]
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c. In this passage, the Jew's asked if Jesus was the Christ and based on His response said He was guilty of **blasphemy** and that there was no need of witnesses. In their minds this was enough to seek the death penalty for Jesus and crucify Him.

i. What had Jesus done that disqualified Him from even being considered to be the Christ, the Son of the Living God? *[discussion]*

ii. What deeds or works had He done to disqualify Him from being considered to be the Christ, the Son of the Living God? What deeds had He done to qualify Himself? *[discussion]*

iii. When His temple was "destroyed", did He not raise it up in days? _____

iv. Was He guilty of blasphemy as He was accused of by the religious leaders? _____

v. How should this prepare and motivate us to deal with objections that unbelievers have with Christ as the Son of the Living God and Savior of the world? *[discussion]*

b. "Even if I testify about Myself, My testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from or where I am going." (v.14)

i. Jesus testimony of Himself was true because:

1. He knew His origin and destiny (vv.14-15)

2. He had an intimate relationship and union with the Father from eternity past (v.16)

3. He and the Father witnessed harmoniously together regarding the identity of the Son (vv.17-18)

4. What does the bible say about the law as it relates to the righteous?

a. "But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully, realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers and

immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching, according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted." (1 TIMOTHY 1:8-11 NASB)

- b. "If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater; for the testimony of God is this, that He has testified concerning His Son. The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son. And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life." (1 JOHN 5:9-12 NASB)
- c. "Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit." (ROMANS 8:1-4 NASB)

ii. The Jews testimony of Jesus was false because:

- 1. They didn't even know where his earthly/physical origin was from, much less His spiritual origin (John 7:50-52)
 - a. Nicodemus (he who came to Him before, being one of them) said to them, "Our Law does not judge a man unless it first hears from him and knows what he is doing, does it?" They answered him, "You are not also from Galilee, are you? Search, and see that no prophet arises out of Galilee." (JOHN 7:50-52 NASB)
 - b. The rulers of the Jews were fixated on the _____ aspect of Jesus' origin (and got it wrong anyway), instead of the _____ reality of His origin which was/is far more important.
- 2. They had no intimate relationship or union with the Father or true knowledge of the substance of His word.
 - a. The religious leaders prided themselves in their knowledge of the OT scriptures (The Law and Prophets) and thought that it was in these and their heritage that they had gained

eternal life. Why were they wrong in this assumption?

- b. You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life. (JOHN 5:39-40 NASB)
 - c. What are some things that we seek after and pride ourselves in that give us a false sense of security as it pertains to salvation and eternal security? *[discussion]*
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- 3. They bore false witness against Jesus harmoniously with their father the Devil.
 - a. The accusations that they had against Jesus were all false and they fabricated charges against Him that were founded in lies (the lies of their father the devil)
 - b. "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies." (JOHN 8:44 NASB)

III. The Judgement of the Pharisees contrasted with that of Jesus and the Father (vv.15-16)

- a. "You judge according to the flesh; I am not judging anyone." (v.15)
 - i. The Jews were judging according to the _____, but Jesus said He was not Judging anyone. What did He mean by "I am not judging anyone?" *[hint: dispensation] [discussion]*

- ii. "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him." (JOHN 3:17 NASB)
- iii. If anyone hears My sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. (JOHN 12:47 NASB)
- b. "But even if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone in it, but I and the Father who sent Me." (v.16)
 - i. Who is Jesus' "star witness" as it relates to who He is and how He is able to rightly judge the hearts of men? _____
 - ii. If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater; for the testimony of God is this, that He has testified concerning His Son. (1 JOHN 5:9 NASB)

- iii. How does the testimony of man stand in comparison with that of God the Father? _____
- iv. Whose judgement did the religious leaders esteem as higher, based on their actions and ultimate verdict concerning Jesus and His fate?

IV. The Testimony of Two is True (vv.17-20)

- a. "Even in your law it has been written that the testimony of two men is true." (v.17)
 - i. Refer to above verses from Deut. 17:6; 19:15
 - ii. We learned that Jesus had "four witnesses" in John 5:31-47
 - 1. The witness of John the Baptist (vv.31-35)
 - 2. The witness of the Works of Christ (v.36)
 - 3. The witness of the Father (vv.37-38)
 - 4. The witness of the Scriptures (vv.39-47)
- b. "I am He who testifies about Myself, and the Father who sent Me testifies about Me." (v.18)
 - i. Jesus and the Father testify about Jesus and are not subject to the Law because they are the "Law Giver" and the "Law Fulfiller"
 - ii. Jesus and God the Father are righteous and holy and therefore are not under the Law or subject to it or the laws of man because the Law of God is greater than the law of man. (1 Tim. 1:8)
 - iii. Jesus was/is in a _____ position among men to bare witness of Himself as it pertains to His _____ as Christ.
 - iv. Jesus, nonetheless, pointed out that He had more than _____ or _____ witnesses to substantiate His claim as the Christ, the Son of the Living God.
- c. "...Where is Your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither Me nor My Father; if you knew Me, you would know My Father also." (v.19)
 - i. Once again the Jews were fixated on the _____ rather than the _____ aspect of Jesus' origin.
 - ii. When we say "origin" of Jesus, what **do** we mean? *[discussion]*

 - iii. What **don't** we mean? *[discussion]*

 - iv. "The one who **believes in the Son** of God has the **testimony** in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son. And the testimony is this, that **God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son**. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life." (1 JOHN 5:10-12 NASB)

- d. "These words He spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one seized Him, because His hour had not yet come." (v.20)
- i. Most of the activities recorded in the New Testament took place in the Treasury, also known as the "Court of the Women". When, for example, we read that Jesus taught in the Temple (Matthew 21.23; John 7.14,28; 8.2,20), he did not enter the Sanctuary itself because, as a non-Levite, he would not have been allowed inside this beautiful building which was reserved for priests only.
 - ii. The Treasury was a court that was located to the east of the Temple itself, just below the Nicanor Gate.
 - iii. This court is also called the Court of the Women, as that is as far as women were allowed to enter the Temple courts. It was in this court that the Presentation of Jesus and the meeting with Simeon and Anna the Prophetess (Luke 2:25–38) took place.
<https://www.ritmeyer.com/2015/05/15/the-treasury-of-the-temple-in-jerusalem/>
 - iv. There were those in the crowd who wanted to seize Jesus again at this time, but they didn't because _____.

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