

Jesus is the Light of the World [part 2](John 8:21-30)

Scripture Text:

21. Then He said again to them, "I go away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin; where I am going, you cannot come."
22. So the Jews were saying, "Surely He will not kill Himself, will He, since He says, 'Where I am going, you cannot come'?"
23. And He was saying to them, "You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world."
24. Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."
25. So they were saying to Him, "Who are You?" Jesus said to them, "What have I been saying to you from the beginning?"
26. I have many things to speak and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and the things which I heard from Him, these I speak to the world."
27. They did not realize that He had been speaking to them about the Father.
28. So Jesus said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me."
29. And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him."
30. As He spoke these things, many came to believe in Him. (JOHN 8:21-30 NASB)

Outline:

- I. Jesus Going Where Some Can Not Go (vv.21-24)
- II. Who are you Jesus? (vv.25-27)
- III. Jesus foretells the time when they will know Who He is and Who sent Him (vv.28-30)

Worksheet (part 2)

- I. Jesus Going Where Some Cannot Go (vv.21-24)
 - a. "...I go away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin; where I am going, you cannot come." (v.21)
 - i. Where was Jesus going? Jesus was going to _____ to be with the _____.

- ii. This would be fulfilled by His immanent _____, His promised _____, and necessary _____ to heaven so that the _____ could come. (John 14:16,17)
 - iii. "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you." (JOHN 14:16-17 NASB)
 - iv. Why would the Jews be seeking Jesus after He had gone away?
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- v. "Now while they were on their way, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all that had happened. And when they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, and said, "You are to say, 'His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep.' And if this should come to the governor's ears, we will win him over and keep you out of trouble." And they took the money and did as they had been instructed; and this story was widely spread among the Jews, and is to this day." (MATTHEW 28:11-15 NASB)
 - vi. Who would the Jews continue to seek, but never find? _____
 - vii. Who is Jesus? _____
 - viii. Consider the weight of what Jesus (the second Person of the Trinity/God the Son/The Alpha and The Omega/The Beginning and The End/the One who spoke and the world came into existence) is saying to the Jews concerning their **present condition** and **eternal destination**. *[discussion]*
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- ix. Why could the Jews **NOT** come to where Jesus was going?
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- x. The Jews displayed four characteristics that ensure that people will die in their sins and experience spiritual death (the second death):
 1. Being Self-righteous
 2. Being Earth-bound
 3. Being Unbelieving
 4. Being Willfully ignorant
- b. "Surely He will not kill Himself, will He, since He says, 'Where I am going, you cannot come'?" (v.22) *[self-righteous]*
 - i. The Jews once again show themselves to be completely and utterly spiritually bankrupt and carnal in their thinking. What did they assume

that Jesus was going to do?

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- ii. As a result of their willful misunderstanding of what Jesus was going to do and the implications that would follow, where did the Jews believe Jesus was going?
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- iii. What would be the implications of this for Jesus from the perspective of the Jews and their teachings?
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- iv. What were their assumptions about themselves and their eternal destination?
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- c. "You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world." (v.23) [**earth-bound**]
- i. "And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." (2 CORINTHIANS 4:3-4 NASB)
 - ii. "The first man [Adam] is from the earth, earthy; the second man [Jesus] is from heaven. As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly." (1 CORINTHIANS 15:47-49 NASB)
 - iii. "Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the **boastful pride of life**, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; **but the one who does the will of God lives forever.**" (1 JOHN 2:15-17 NASB)
- d. "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins." (v.24) [**unbelieving**]
- i. In these verses (vv.21-24), Jesus reveals the consequences of rejecting Him as God, The Messiah and Son of God? What is the consequence of rejecting Jesus Christ? _____ (v.24; Hebrews 10:26-31)
 - ii. "For if we go on **sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth**, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a **terrifying expectation of judgment** and the **fury of a fire** which will **consume the adversaries**. Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has **trampled under foot the Son of God**, and has **regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant**

by which he was sanctified, and has **insulted the Spirit of grace**? For we know Him who said, "vengeance is mine, I will repay." And again, "the Lord will judge his people." **It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**" (HEBREWS 10:26-31 NASB)

II. Who are you Jesus? (vv.25-27) [*willful ignorance*]

a. So they were saying to Him, "Who are You?" (v.25a)

i. What do you suppose the Jews wanted Jesus to say in response to this question?

ii. When Jesus finally and plainly stated who He was/is, what was their response? (Matt. 26:62-68)

iii. "The high priest stood up and said to Him, "Do You not answer? What is it that these men are testifying against You?" But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest said to Him, "I adjure You by the living God, that You tell us whether You are the Christ, the Son of God." Jesus said to him, "You have said it yourself; nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you will see the son of man sitting at the right hand of power, and coming on the clouds of heaven." Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has blasphemed! What further need do we have of witnesses? Behold, you have now heard the blasphemy; what do you think?" They answered, "He deserves death!" Then they spat in His face and beat Him with their fists; and others slapped Him, and said, "Prophecy to us, You Christ; who is the one who hit You?" (MATTHEW 26:62-68 NASB)

b. Jesus said to them, "What have I been saying to you from the beginning?" (v.25b)

i. In the case of Jesus' identity and the gospel message, it is not that the Jews _____ believe, it is more accurate to say they _____ believe.

ii. For those who hear and *don't* or *won't* believe:

1. "And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (2 CORINTHIANS 4:3-4 NASB)

2. For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame. (HEBREWS 6:4-6 NASB)

iii. For those who hear and **do** or **will** believe:

1. "And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. (Ephesians 2:1-3 NKJV)
2. With some people it doesn't matter how many times or how many different ways you say something, they just *don't* understand or *won't* believe.
3. In the case of these Pharisees (doctors of the Law, religious elite, rulers of the Jews, members of the Sanhedrin, etc.) was it likely that they couldn't believe (*ignorance*) or more likely that they wouldn't believe (*willful unbelief*)? *[discussion]*

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4. Their unbelief was **voluntary** not **involuntary**...or was it?
[discussion: calling, election, predestination, etc.]
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c. "I have many things to speak and to judge concerning you..." (v.26)

- i. Jesus had many personal things that He could have said to the Jews at this time in righteous judgment, but He came to speak the words of His Father "to the world" (v.26) instead.
- ii. What are some of the things that Jesus did say to the Jews in judgement? (Matthew 23) *[read]*

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1. Jesus exposes the Pharisees and Sadducees in front of the people (Matt 23:1-12)
 2. Jesus declares His famous (or infamous depending on your perspective) "Eight Woes" (Matt 23:13-36)
 3. Jesus laments over Israel's (the Jews') unbelief as a nation (Matt 23:37-39)

d. "They did not realize that He had been speaking to them about the Father." (v.27)

- i. The Jews did not realize that Jesus was speaking about God the Father because these things were/are _____ discerned. (I Cor. 2:14)

ii. "Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory; **the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory;**... For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, **not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.**" (1 CORINTHIANS 2:6-8, 11-14 NASB)

- III. Jesus foretells the time when they will know Who He is and Who sent Him (vv.28-30)
- a. "Jesus said, 'When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, ...' (v.28)
- i. "Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came out of heaven: "I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again." So the crowd of people who stood by and heard it were saying that it had thundered; others were saying, "An angel has spoken to Him." Jesus answered and said, "This voice has not come for My sake, but for your sakes. Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. **And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself.**" **But He was saying this to indicate the kind of death by which He was to die.**" (JOHN 12:27-33 NASB)
- ii. And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. And behold, the **veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom**; and the **earth shook** and **the rocks were split**. The **tombs were opened**, and **many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised**; and **coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they entered the holy city and appeared to many**. Now the **centurion**, and **those who were with him** keeping guard over Jesus, when they saw the earthquake and the things that were happening, became very frightened and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!" (MATTHEW 27:50-54 NASB)
- b. "And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him." (v.29)

- i. Jesus was sent by _____ and _____ was with Him and never left Him alone.
- ii. What kept God from leaving Jesus alone?

- iii. What should we do, like Jesus, to maintain a right relationship and good fellowship with God?

- iv. "Or do you not know that **your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit** who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? **For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.**" (1 CORINTHIANS 6:19-20 NASB)
- v. "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him." Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? **He who has seen Me has seen the Father**; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? **The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works.** Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves. **Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father.** Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. **"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."** (JOHN 14:7-15 NASB)
- vi. "However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brethren, **we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh- for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.**" (ROMANS 8:9-14 NASB)
- c. "As He spoke these things, many came to believe in Him." (v.30) Who came to believe in Him? Who was there in the Court of the Women? *[discussion]*

