

Morning Worship April 15, 2018
"Light's Fight for Life!" Part 1- John 8:12-29

*I. See here, Jesus' teaching about and offering of
Himself, as Light of the World -*

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." ¹³ (John 8:12 NKJ)

Christ presents a positive "beautiful" message about Who He is and what benefit following Him would bring –

Jesus is the Light of the world:

1. Better, brighter, more needed than the sun –

For the LORD God *is* a sun and shield; The LORD will give grace and glory; No good *thing* will He withhold From those who walk uprightly. (Psalm 84:11 NKJ)

The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb *is* its light. (Revelation 21:23 NKJ)

*2. Those who follow Him will not walk in darkness but have the
Light of life, a reference to the nighttime form of the Shekinah
glory -*

In the center of the treasury four great torches were set up. Some accounts say that the torches were as high as the highest walls of the temple and that at the top of these golden candelabra were great bowls holding sixty-five liters of oil. There was a ladder for each candelabrum, and in the evening young, healthy priests would carry the oil up to the top, where they would light the protruding wicks. The great flames that leapt out of these torches illumined the whole temple and much of Jerusalem. It was spectacular! The *Mishnah* describes what happened after the torches were lit:

Men of piety and good works used to dance before them with burning torches in their hands singing songs and praises and countless Levites played on harps, lyres, cymbals, and trumpets and instruments of music.

They would dance until dawn. It was an exotic festival celebrating the great pillar of fire that led the people of Israel during their sojourn in the

wilderness. It was in this place, no doubt with the charred torches still in place, that Jesus chose to raise his voice above the crowd and proclaim, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." There would scarcely be a more dramatic way to announce one of the supreme realities of Jesus' existence. ...

R. Kent Hughes

*II. The replies of the darkness are immediate, and
false –*

They said to Jesus ... The Pharisees therefore said to Him, "You bear witness of Yourself; Your witness is not true." (John 8:13 NKJ)

1. This is a legal, courtroom argument -

"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 NKJ)

"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. (Deuteronomy 19:15 NKJ)

*A. Yet it is one that could not apply to Jesus, Who is the all-
knowing Son of God –*

Jesus answered and said to them, "Even if I bear witness of Myself, My witness is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from and where I am going. (John 8:14 NKJ)

*B. Additionally, it did not apply to Jesus because He was not
judging anyone –*

... I judge no one. (John 8:15B NKJ) - This was said in reference to what was at that time, Christ's mission from the Father –
"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. (John 3:17 NKJ)

*C. Thirdly, it (this legal argument) did not apply to Jesus because
He if He would judge, He was not actually alone –*

"And yet if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone, but I am with the Father who sent Me. ¹⁷ "It is also written in your law that the testimony of two men is true. ¹⁸ "I am One who bears witness of Myself, and the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me." (John 8:16-18 NKJ)

2. *The argument of the Pharisees was based on the flesh –*
"You judge according to the flesh; ... (John 8:15 NKJ)

This is how they "judged" Jesus –

A. *It was prophesied they would -*

Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ²For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, *There is no beauty that we should desire Him.* ³He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, *our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.* (Isaiah 53:1-3 NKJ)

B. *It is how all mere humans tend to judge and evaluate things –*
But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For *the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.*" (1 Samuel 16:7 NKJ)

Fact is, we cannot see everything, we cannot see into men's hearts, only God can!

3. *After this argument is defeated, Jesus' opponents bring a question - Then they said to Him, "Where is Your Father?" (John 8:19A NKJ)*

And eventually another - Then they said to Him, "Who are You?" (John 8:25A NKJ)

1. *There is always a new argument against Christ, God, grace ...*
2. *The questions they ask, where is Your father? Who are You? Show us the sad truth, they don't know God!*

III. *Knowing God, making Him known, was is the very essence of Jesus shining light –*

1. *Note Jesus' many references to the Father, His Father here, showing the great connection and intimacy Jesus had with God the Father:*
 - A. *Jesus is not alone, because the Father is with Him - :16*
 - B. *The Father bears witness of Jesus - :18*

C. *Jesus tells them if they would have know Him, they would also know the Father - :19*

D. *Those who argued with Jesus had no clue about His discussion of the Father - :27*

E. *What Jesus was saying to them, God the father had taught Him - :28*

F. *Jesus always pleased the Father - :29*

2. *The things Jesus teaches about Himself show Him to be a unique and extremely follow-worthy Person –*

A. *You cannot follow Jesus if you do not see Him or know Him!*

B. *This brings us back to the truth taught to another Pharisee, Nicodemus –*

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3 NKJ)

Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. (John 3:5 NKJ)

IV. *Jesus communicates to these poor men that they were in a dire situation –*

Then Jesus said to them again, "I am going away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin. Where I go you cannot come." ²²So the Jews said, "Will He kill Himself, because He says, 'Where I go you cannot come '?" ²³And He said to them, "You are from beneath; 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 if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins." (John 8:21-24 NKJ)

1. *There is a right way to respond to such words from God –*
Isaiah 38:1-6; Jonah 3:1-10

2. *This is repentance, and faith – John 8:24*
A kind of faith was what at least some of them had - As He spoke these words, many believed in Him. (John 8:30 NKJ)

Lord willing, this will be for next week's sermon!

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