

JOHN 8 AND THE GOSPEL – Part 1

May 29, 2022

All the gospels focus on Jesus Christ, on who He is, and what He's done for us. And we're going through the gospel of John, and this gospel, more than any other, talks about Jesus. Last time we talked about Jesus being the light of the world, and today we'll continue on that most important subject.

John 8:12. Jesus is the Light, which means that He's holy, righteous, and perfect. This word darkness has to do with sin, evil, and wickedness. And sin is the #1 problem in the world. And that's because it results in death, in physical death and spiritual death, and spiritual death means you are spiritually separated and cut off from God. Now Jesus is the only answer to this problem of sin. 2 Cor. 5:21, 1 Pet. 3:18.

- Jesus took our sin upon Himself when He was on the cross, and He paid the penalty for our sin and, specifically, for those who repent of their sin and believe in Him. And all who repent and believe in Jesus will be forgiven of their sins, and will spiritually live, and be spiritually alive forever, will have eternal life. They'll also defeat physical death, for they'll be raised on the last day and receive a brand-new body. John 12:46

John 8:13. The Pharisees didn't like it when Jesus said things that stated or implied that He was God. And they got really mad and wanted to kill Him. But again, Jesus was telling the truth, for He was God, He is God, and He'll always be God.

- John 8:14-16. Jesus stated that He wasn't judging anyone. And He was saying that He wasn't judging anyone at that time. John 3:17. But there will be a time when Jesus will judge the world. Acts 17:30-31, Rev. 20:11-15

- John 8:17-18. Jesus says that He and His Father are testifying, and He said this because you need at least 2 witnesses to establish the truth about some matter in a court of law. And both He and His Father were witnesses.

John 8:19-20. The Pharisees ask Jesus the question, "*Where is Your Father?*" Now many people knew Joseph was His stepfather, but there was talk that Jesus was illegitimate, that He was born out of wedlock, and they were trying to make Him look bad, look sinful. Look at Jesus' answer and He was strong in what He said - "*You know neither Me nor My Father.*" Many people knew Mary and Joseph, His physical parents, but Jesus was saying they didn't spiritually know Him or His Father. They weren't saved, they weren't born again, they didn't have a relationship with Him or with His Father. John 5:23

Jesus was in an area of the temple called the treasury and it was in the Court of Women, an area where women could go, and a place where all the treasury boxes were, the place where people gave money, where they did their tithing. Luke 21:1-2

Now many people wanted to seize Jesus. They wanted to shut Him up. They didn't like what He was saying, they didn't like all the influence He had, and they were jealous, and wanted Him killed. And they couldn't because *"His hour had not yet come."* This is an encouraging truth about God's sovereignty over Jesus' life, and an example of how He is sovereign over all our lives. Prov. 16:9, James 4:13-16

John 8:21. Jesus said He'd be going away. Well, it wasn't long after this that Jesus died on the cross, was raised from the dead, and ascended into heaven. And so when Jesus said He was going away, it meant He was going to heaven to be with His Father. But they thought they'd be able to look for Him and find Him. Jesus then explains why they couldn't go where He was going. He says they were still in their sins. They were sinners and had rejected Him, and if they didn't repent, they wouldn't be in heaven with Jesus, but would physically die in their sins, and be spiritually dead, and apart from God, forever being punished by God for their sins. John 5:24

Now all people are sinners, and if a person doesn't repent of his sins, and believe in Jesus during his life on earth, then when he physically dies, he'll die in his sins, and won't go to heaven where Jesus is at, but instead, will go to hell. But the Jews didn't know what Jesus was talking about. They thought He was going to commit suicide. And so Jesus repeats Himself, *"Where I am going, you cannot come."*

John 8:23-24. Jesus further explains that if they're sinners and physically die, then they won't go to heaven, for they're from below, from the world, and He's from above, from heaven. Now to say they're from the world is another way to say they are sinners. Now when we say *"world"*, what does it mean?

- It can mean the physical world, the world God created.

- It can mean a world of people. John 3:16

- But in this context, it's referring to a spiritual system of evil that's on this earth.

It's a way of life controlled by Satan and his demons. That is, the devil controls this world, and it's the devil's evil ways and ideologies that greatly and powerfully affect this world.

1 John 5:19 says, *"We know that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one."*

Now here are some vss. that help us understand what the world is:

- Eph. 6:12 - *"Our struggle is... against the world forces of this darkness."*

- Col. 2:8 - *"See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception... according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ."*

- 1 John 2:15-16. *"Do not love the world or the things of the world."* 1 Cor. 1:20-21

And so in this context, the "world" refers to a whole set of beliefs that's humanistic, fleshly, and devilish, one that's directly opposed to God and His word. It has to do with people's views on marriage, families, money, music, education, work, looks, clothes, pleasure, possessions, religion, and many more things. And the attitudes worldly people have are selfish, greedy, impure, unrighteous, jealous, unloving, etc. - Now Jesus is not of this world, but He's from above, from heaven, a place that is holy, pure, and godly. Jn. 17:16 - *"They, (that is, the disciples), are not of the world, even as I am not of the world."* And so Jesus is not of the world, and neither are Christians. Phil. 3:20

Jesus is saying that these unbelievers are of the world, of this devilish system, and that they're sinners. Eph. 2:2 - *"You were dead in your sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air."* And so again Jesus tells them that they'll die in their sins, that is be apart from God and in hell, unless they believe in Jesus, for He told them, *"unless you believe I am He."*

John 8:25-26. The people don't understand what Jesus means when He says, *"unless you believe I am He."* They say, *"Who are You?"* Time and time again, Jesus has been speaking about who He is, trying to tell them that He's the Messiah, the Son of God. This has been His message from the beginning, and we continually see this in the first 8 chapters of John. And as was said earlier, Jesus' Father testified that Jesus is God in the flesh, and so did John the Baptist, and all the works Jesus did testified, and finally, the very word of God, the OT truth, testified and bore witness to the fact that Jesus was and is the Messiah. And so the witness, the evidence of who Jesus is, is overwhelming. But the hearts of most of the Jews were hard. Their minds were deceived and blinded by the devil himself.

Now Jesus wants them to know that He has many things to speak and to judge concerning them. He uses the word speak to refer to truths He needs to teach them. And in the gospels, you read all kinds of truths that Jesus teaches the people. Jesus also judges, and the word judge has to do with making judgments and decisions about the actions of people. And it has to do more with the consequences, the results in people's lives if they don't believe and do what Jesus says. John 3:16, John 5:24

John 8:26. Jesus wants the people to know that when He speaks and judges, that He's telling the truth. And Jesus tells them that His Father is true, and since His Father sent Him, and since Jesus heard things from His Father that are true, then what He's now speaking to the people is true. Indeed, since the Father is true, then Jesus, His Son, is true, and therefore, Jesus always speaks the truth. John 3:33, 7:28

The word true is an important word, and speaks of that which is real, is right, is correct, is genuine, and is not lies or error. And the Father is true and all He speaks is the truth. Now there are physical truths: we know the truth of gravity, that if you drop something it's going to fall. But here we're talking about spiritual truths, truths that relate to your spirit, your heart, your soul, and these truths are absolute, never change, and are always true. And God gave us the Bible, and it contains all the truths we need to know to live in a godly way. Psalm 119:160, John 17:17

John 8:27-30. The people didn't know He had been speaking to them about the Father. And one thing that stands out in John's gospel is that Jesus continually talks about His Father, and His relationship with Him, and their unity, and how Jesus said and did all that His Father wanted Him to say and to do. Father in gospel of John. And so how does Jesus respond to what these people said? He tells them more about the Father, and His relationship with Him.

First Jesus talks about when He is lifted up, and this refers to Jesus dying on the cross, but it's also referring to His resurrection. And what Jesus is saying is that the truth of His death and being raised from the dead is proof that He is who He said He is, that He is God in the flesh. And He is telling the people that that's when they will know for certain that He is the Messiah, the Savior, the Son of God. And that Jesus was raised from the dead also proves that Jesus' Father, that is, God the Father, is working with Jesus, and is the One who actually raised Jesus, raised Him from the dead. Acts 2:24, 32; Acts 3:15

And Jesus goes on to say three important things about Himself and His Father:

1. Jesus said and did nothing on His own, but only those things the Father said and did.
 2. The Father is always with His Son and never leaves Him alone, which again shows their close relationship, and their unity. John 16:32, Psalm 16
 3. Jesus always did what pleased the Father. Jesus only did what His Father wanted Him to do, only that which was pleasing to His Father. This shows the great love Jesus had for His Father, and that the Father had for the Son. John 15:9
- The result of all this is that many people believed in Him, were saved. And many people were saved during Jesus' ministry, not the majority of the people, but a lot of people.