

V. Who do You Think You are? (8:48-59)

- A. *Who do you think you are?* (51-59)
- i. If Jesus did not think He was God, then certainly we should not think He is. So Who does Jesus think He is?
 - ii. Jesus says that Abraham had seen Jesus' day.
 - iii. *"Before Abraham was, I am!"* could not be more explicit.
- B. Their rejection of Jesus, the light of the world, results in the light going out of the temple (59).

Jesus is the Light of the world. To believe in Him and truly be a disciple, means to persist in hearing His Word and to allow it to increasingly light our path... to transform our lives.

LIVE THE STORY

*The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community.
The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- Is there any significance to how this episode begins and ends (8:12, 59)? How might John's original audience have understood this?
- How does true belief in Jesus different than "believe and your path is illuminated" (as if you get an automatic headlamp for life)? What is the real sense in which real disciples have the light of life?
- What are some ways in John that we can see that not all seeking of Jesus is positive? Can you think of times in church history that not all "seeking of Jesus" was good?
- How is YHWH glorified? How is it that on the cross Jesus is both lifted up (literally), and exalted/glorified (8:28)?
- What does John 8:30-32 teach us about the nature of authentic faith? How might this sermon illustrate the point of John 8:31-32?
- In light of this text, why might Jesus' Word be difficult to understand?

The Word Became Flesh (Part 14)

I Am the Light of the World

Jerry Cisar — November 12, 2017

Text: John 8:12-59

Introduction: Jesus the Light of the World

I. Who is Your Father? (8:13-20)

- A. The Pharisees reject the light and will only have darkness.
- i. We can only know truth to the degree that we know where Jesus came from and where He was going.
 - ii. Is Jesus judging or not?
 - John 3:17-20
- B. Where is Your Father?
- i. To the degree that we know Jesus, we know the Father, and we do not walk in darkness.
 - ii. This is believe in such a way that you pursue His word, and in your pursuing, that word will ever be transforming your life... giving light.

II. Who are You? (8:21-30)

- A. Going away is a veiled reference to Jesus' death (21).
 - i. They are “seeking Jesus” to kill Him (5:18; 7:1, 11, 19-20, 25, 30).
 - ii. They are seeking to kill Jesus, yet they will die in their sins!
- B. **Who are you?** (24-25)
 - i. V24 “Unless you believe that I am...”
 - ii. V28 “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am...”

God is glorified when he is made known, and YHWH, I am, is most clearly made known in the cross. Hence their lifting Him up on a cross is His glorification.

➤ Exodus 3:14

- iii. V25b: “And what have I told you from the beginning?”

➤ John 5:39-40; 46-47

- C. Their “faith” should perplex us (30).
 - i. Jesus had just said that they would not know that He is I am until they crucified Him.
 - ii. Did Jesus give in to the temptation from His brothers?
 - iii. We should be suspicious that their faith is not authentic.

III. Who are you? Slaves or Sons? (8:31-38)

- A. These “believers” are not true disciples (31-32).

True disciples don't understand everything Jesus says; but real disciples have a life that persists in His word in order to increasingly live in His word which is truth.

- B. These “believers” now object (33).
 - i. The descendants of Abraham, physically speaking, had surely been slaves of Pharaoh, the Babylonians, and Rome.
 - ii. Jesus goes even further back to Isaac and Ishmael (35).

➤ Galatians 4:30

- iii. To be free, and part of the free children of Abraham, you have to be set free by Jesus (36)... which comes as the truth of His Word becomes the living reality of our lives!

- C. Freedom through truth as His Word makes headway in us (37).

Either His word is advancing in us and we increasingly do what pleases Him, or we are unable to hear His word and therefore we fulfill the desires of the devil.

IV. Who is Your Father? (8:39-47)

- A. We can know fatherhood by the deeds people do (39-41).

- i. Genesis 18:1-8

- ii. Genesis 18:19

- B. Jesus makes it even plainer (43-47).