

# Jesus, the Light of the World

*John 8:12-20*

**Thought for the Day:** Jesus came to bring spiritual light and life into a world that is lost and dying in the darkness of sin.

In John 8 Jesus reveals Himself to be the Light of the World sent by God to reveal God and His will to man. He declares Himself to be the prophesied Messiah of the Old Testament, the only true Source of spiritual life and refreshment. "The eighth chapter of the Book of John is one of the greatest proclamations of the deity of Christ in all of the Bible." (*Dr. Bill Jones, Zion's Fire / September-October 2003*). The Jewish religious leaders rejected Him and sought to kill Him, but to those who receive Him, Jesus offers mercy and forgiveness.

## **12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."**

- This is the second of seven "I am" claims made by Jesus recorded in the Gospel of John based on Exodus 3:13-15, where God identifies Himself as the "I am"—the self-existent, eternal, and all-powerful God of the universe.
  - In each of these "I am" statements, Jesus is claiming to be the God of the O.T.
  - These statements reveal different aspects of Christ's nature as God and His work of redemption as the Savior of the world.
- In the Bible, "light" symbolizes the holiness of God; Jesus was claiming to be the manifestation of the holiness of God, as well as all of His other characteristics. (Jhn 1:18)
  - Jesus is not merely a light or one of many lights, He is the one and only true Light that accurately reflects the holiness of God.
  - As the Light, Jesus shows us the truth; He gives us spiritual understanding; and He reveals God to us and what He has done for us.
- Jesus is the light of the world who gives the light of life to those who follow Him.
  - The world is in the spiritual darkness of sin, ignorance, and aimlessness.
  - Apart from Jesus, there is no deliverance from the blackness of sin; there is no guidance along the path of life, no knowledge as to the real meaning and purpose of life, and no insight into the issues of eternity.
  - Jesus Christ alone brings the light of salvation to a sin-cursed world.
- During the Feast of Booths (Tabernacles), water was poured over a rock to commemorate God's provision of water that gushed from a rock in the wilderness (Numbers 20:8-11; Cp. John 4:13-14). Additionally, four huge lamps in the Court of Women in the temple, where the Treasury was located, were lit to commemorate the pillar of fire that led the Israelites in their wilderness journey (Numbers 9:15-23). The light from those lamps lit up much of Jerusalem. In the context of these two rituals, Jesus presented Himself as the true source of living water (7:37-39) and as the true light of the world to be followed.
- In Christ we experience God's presence, protection, and provision of guidance.
- To follow Jesus means to believe on Him, to come to Him in repentance, to trust Him as Lord and Savior, and then to commit one's whole life to Him. Jesus wants our absolute allegiance, obedience, and submission.
- To follow Jesus requires that we completely submit to Him as the Lord of our life. The

person who comes to Jesus comes to Him on His terms, or he does not come at all. (Matthew 8:18-22; Luke 9:23-27; 18:18-30).

**13 So the Pharisees said to him, "You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true."**

- According to the Old Testament Law, every fact in a legal matter had to be established by the testimony of more than one witness. (Numbers 35:30; Deuteronomy 17:6; 19:15)
- The Pharisees refused to consider Jesus' claims no matter how compelling the evidence.

**14 Jesus answered, "Even if I do bear witness 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."**

- Because He was God, Jesus' testimony was true whether anyone corroborated it, or not.
- The religious leaders had no authority to question His testimony; they didn't even know where He came from (His divine origin) or where He was going (His heaven destiny).

**15 You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one.**

- The Pharisees judged others by outward appearances and according to mere human standards. Jesus did not judge men according to worldly standards.
- Jesus did not come the first time to judge the world, but to save the world. (Jhn 3:16-17)
- In the future, however, Jesus will judge the world. (John 5:22, 27; Mt. 16:27; 25:31-46)

**16 Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me.**

- "If the Lord were to judge, His judgment would be righteous and true. He is God and everything He does is done in partnership with the Father who sent Him. Over and over again, the Lord Jesus emphasized to the Pharisees His unity with God the Father. It was this that stirred up in their hearts the bitterest antagonism toward Him." (*MacDonald, p. 2133*)
- Jesus was again claiming equality with His heavenly Father. (Cp. John 5:17-18)

**17 In your Law it is written that the testimony of two men is true. 18 I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me."**

- Jesus bore witness about Himself through His sinless life and the words He spoke. The Father bore witness of Him by the public statements He made from heaven (Mt. 3:17; 17:5; 2 Peter 1:17) and the miracles He enabled Jesus to perform.
- Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament concerning the Messiah.

**19 They said to him therefore, "Where is your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also."**

- No one can know the Father except through Jesus Christ (Mt. 11:27). Their rejection of Jesus made it impossible for them to honestly claim that they knew and loved God.

**20 These words he spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple; but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.**

- The Lord was surrounded by divine protection; no one was able to lay hands on Him to arrest Him or kill Him because His hour had not yet come, the time when He would be crucified at Calvary as a sacrifice for the sins of the world.