

The Gospel of John

8:12-20

Welcome back to this week's study in the book of John.
As with this study and all bible studies, remember to pray before you start.

✠ **John 8:12** *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."*

If you will remember in last week's study, we read of Jesus and the woman caught in adultery. It was the scribes and Pharisees who had brought this woman before Jesus trying to test Him. But to their surprise, as they were trying to expose the sin of this woman to Jesus, their sins became more evident to all.

Many people followed after the teachings of the scribes and Pharisees, but now their teaching had been exposed to the light of God's word, and the result was that darkness was found in their teachings. This darkness was trying to proclaim God's word with unrighteous judgment, and mixing of so many of man's laws with God's laws, that they seemed to put God's law as second to their own laws making God's law of no affect.

Now since the darkness of these religious leaders had been exposed, the people now needed the truth or light of God's word.
So Jesus comes to them and says, *"I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."*

The people had been following the religious leaders and had been walking in darkness for all these years.
Jesus tells a parable about such things.

✠ **Luke 6:39** *And He spoke a parable to them: "Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into the ditch?"*

This is what happens with false religion and cults.
These false religions and cults proclaim to speak the truth, but instead they speak lies to the people. The problem is that those who follow after them are just as blind to the truth as they are, therefore they will both be judged on the Day of Judgment. The end results will be that these false religions and cults along with all its followers will be thrown into outer darkness (the ditch).

✠ **Matt 8:12** *"But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*

So many reject this type of teaching and say that we are too narrow minded, after all they are trying to do what's right and God would not punish those who are trying.

Yes, they are trying, but they are not trying God's way, but rather in their own wisdom and by their own works are they expecting to get to heaven. They are trying to get to the light by following the darkness.

Have you ever watched a horror movie, have you ever noticed how dark these movies always are? Even satan worshipers will wear all black because they want nothing to do with the light, which represents Jesus Christ and truth.

I remember when I came back to the Lord; it all started with a song played on secular radio by the Christian group DC Talk. I was so used to listening to songs of the world, that when this Christian group started to sing, I noticed something different about them and their music. I bought their CD and the Lord spoke to my heart through it. This all happened because light was shining through the darkness of secular radio, and I was drawn back to the light, which I had known in the past. Soon the songs of the world didn't seem that great any more as I got more and more into Christian music and back with the Lord.

But anything dark and black attracts the world. Why? Because the world is full of darkness and that's all the world knows. But when light comes on the scene the world cannot comprehend it, so the world rejects the light, which is the truth of God's word. Remember we learned about this in the beginning of chapter one.

† **John 1:4-5** *In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.*

If you are now a Christian, you should be walking in the light. In other words, you are no longer following or accepting the ways of the world. Instead of looking to the world for answers, you look to God and His word for answers to all your problems.

† **Psalms 119:105** *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

Maybe some of you don't. Maybe you don't realize that all your questions and problems can be answered in God's word.

You see, satan only wants you to think that the bible is just a bunch of stories or something to entertain you or just something to read. But applying it to your life is something you wouldn't do. After all you may say that, "*these people lived thousands of years ago and things have changed in this world and the way people are, so these stories really don't apply to me.*"

Have you been thinking like that? Once again this is a lie of the evil one, because it all applies to us today, even though it was written thousands of years ago, people and situations have not changed. And neither does God.

† **Mal 3:6** *For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.*

✚ **John 8:12** *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."*

Also, if you are a Christian then you also have this same light. This light is not generated of it self, but rather it's a reflection of Jesus Christ in your life.

Think of the moon. Did you know it's nothing more than a big dead rock in the sky? But at night, and even during the day you can see it shining, lighting up the night sky. The light does not come from itself, but rather it's a reflection of the light coming from the sun.

That's the same way we are, we are in this world of sin and darkness and when the world sees us, they see something different.

It's like going into a big crowd of people who are not Christians; you seem to stand out like a sore thumb. Why? Because you are different, you have something that the others do not have and they are looking to see what that something is.

Or at night when the porch light is on and all these bugs are around it, it's because they are attracted to the light. So the world is attracted to the light in us, which is Jesus Christ.

So the question is, when this happens, will you allow others to know what this light is in your life, or will you turn it off because you are embarrassed of the light?

Here they had the pure light of Jesus Christ right in front of them, but they questioned the light.

✚ **John 8:13** *The Pharisees therefore said to Him, "You bear witness of Yourself; Your witness is not true."*

Once again evidence of the following verse.

✚ **John 1:5** *And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.*

Jesus responds with:

✚ **John 8:14-18** *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. You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. And yet if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone, but I am with the Father who sent Me. It is also written in your law that the testimony of two men is true. I am One who bears witness of Myself, and the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me."*

Jesus could not lie, just as God doesn't lie. Jesus came proclaiming that the world was in darkness and that they needed the light, which is the truth of God's word. Jesus was now

proclaiming to be this light that all men needed. Jesus came to proclaim the good news of salvation and the only way He could do this was to let others know that He came from God and that He proclaimed God's truth.

The Pharisees problem with this was that since Jesus was being a witness of this truth, which they thought that He had no other witnesses to support His claims, according to what is written in the law.

† **Deut 19:15** *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.*

They were accusing Jesus of committing sin by breaking the Sabbath and making Himself God. Jesus says that He does bear witness that He is truth and according to the law He could back it up with another witness, which is God.

✎ *"I am One who bears witness of Myself, and the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me."*

Also we know that the religious leaders were judging Jesus according to what they say, rather than what God's word says.

✎ *You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. And yet if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone, but I am with the Father who sent Me.*

Don't we tend to do the same thing sometimes? If someone or something is not just the way we like it, then we judge it according to our likes and dislikes rather than by God's word.

Maybe it's just the way a person looks or talks. Maybe it's how much others have or don't have.

Some people love to hear the latest gossip in the church so that they could spread it around to others. Sad to say, but sometimes we do this in prayer time with a group of believers. We seem to be praying for someone, but really we are telling others details on the dirt we found out about someone.

If something is dirty, you don't throw more dirt on it, you wash it with water.

When you tell gossip about others, that's just what you are doing, throwing the dirt around so others get dirty also. We should stop this NOW!

If you messed up, would you want it to get around to others so that they could spread your dirt around? No, you go to others because you want to be cleansed by the water of God's word.

Remember last week, how the Pharisees brought this woman before Jesus and all others. They were throwing her dirt around. How do you think this woman felt? How do you think the person who is struggling with sin feels when you spread their dirt around?

These Pharisees couldn't get this woman in trouble, so they now turn on Jesus and call Him a liar.

Jesus response to this is:

✎ ***And yet if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone, but I am with the Father who sent Me.***

It's like Jesus was saying that if you are calling Me a liar, then you are calling God a liar also.

✎ ***John 8:19-20 Then they said to Him, "Where is Your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither Me nor My Father. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also." These words Jesus spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one laid hands on Him, for His hour had not yet come.***

They were asking Jesus, "Where is your other witness, who is this Father of Yours?"

Children are a reflection of their parents. Sometimes we say jokingly, "That's not my child" when they mess up or throw their fits. But do we do the same thing when we don't get what we want, and then we wonder why our children do the same thing.

Jesus is telling the people that if they really knew God that they would have known Him. But they didn't know God; therefore, they couldn't know who Jesus was.

Some people blame the way they live or their sins on their parents. They will say, "My dad or mother was like this, so I am the same way."

The question is, who or where is your father, just as they asked Jesus.

Both my dad and mom were alcoholics, I also drank but never had a drinking problem like they did. I could have, but before I could get to that stage I found a new Father who is God. My desire is to be like Him, and He is not an alcoholic.

Praise be to God that both of my parents have quit drinking. My dad returned to the Lord a several years before he died and went to heaven. My mom is a Believer now too.

Jesus could boldly say that if you knew Him that you would also know God.

I pray the day we all could say that if people know us, that they would know Jesus.

Jesus even prayed for this for us.

✎ ***John 17:20-23 I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.***

We will study this more when we get to chapter 17. But just to read of Jesus praying for you and me should be an encouragement to us all.

This probably made the religious leaders mad because Jesus was proclaiming God as His Father, making Himself equal with God.

† **John 5:18** *Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.*

† **Phil 2:5-7** *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.*

When we proclaim God as our Father, we are not doing it in the same way that Jesus was. We are proclaiming God as our creator. God was not Jesus' creator, because Jesus is God and Jesus created all things.

† **John 1:3** *All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*

Do people know that the God of the bible is your God?

Do others know that Jesus is Lord of your life?

Are you allowing the light of Jesus to shine forth from you, or are you hiding it?

† **Matt 5:14-16** *You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

When you speak to others, can you back up what you say in God's word?

Is God your witness as you proclaim truth?

Remember when, or if you judge to do it with righteous judgment and not worldly judgment.

If you do it with worldly judgment, then you are no better than the Scribes and Pharisees we have been reading about. The same ones who tried to judge the woman caught in adultery. They failed because they used worldly judgment, which was meant for their own personal gain.

But if you judge righteously, then you are doing it according to God's word and out of love, examining your own life and considering it as well.

† **1 Cor 10:12** *Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.*

✠ These words Jesus spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one laid hands on Him, for His hour had not yet come.

The treasury area of the temple may have been the same place that the woman caught in adultery was brought, because women were allowed into this area of the temple.

Also even though the religious leaders were angry and wanted to kill Jesus, they still couldn't because it wasn't time yet.

Why was this important? To fulfill scripture. If you read throughout the Old Testament there are over 300 prophecies of Jesus including His death and resurrection. God is also a God of order, and everything had to be in just the right order for all prophecies to be fulfilled. If they would have taken Jesus and crucified Him at this time, then the prophecy of His betrayer would not have come true. Possibly Jesus would have been the only one there, once again voiding out the prophecy of being crucified between two thieves and so on.

God had the whole thing planned out, and at just the right moment and time of Jesus' crucifixion, would allow all prophecies of Jesus to come to pass. If not then Jesus' death would have been in vain and we would all still be in our sins, because God's word would have not been true. But we know that it is and it all happened just as God said it would. There are still more prophecies to come true concerning the last days, the seven-year tribulation period, the 1000-year reign of Jesus Christ on this earth, the battle at Armageddon and so on.

If all things concerning Jesus came true, then you can rest assured that the remaining prophecies will all come to pass also.

Next week we will continue on with this discussion between Jesus and the religious leaders.

May God richly bless you with His love, grace and mercy and may you reflect the light of Jesus in your life that draws all men and women to Jesus.