

INTRODUCTION:

CHAPTER 8:1-11 Jesus went to the Mount of Olives which is a mile long ridge of hills east of Jerusalem. And early in the morning He went into the temple again, and a great multitude followed Him, and He sat down and taught them. Well, the scribes and Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, sitting her in the midst before Him. They called Him "Master" which means "Teacher", explaining that this woman had been caught in the very act of adultery. So, they now explain the Law to the One that gave the Law. They say Moses commanded them to stone such, but "*what do you say?*" They said this to tempt Jesus, so they can trump up a charge against Him; accuse Him; trap Him. But Jesus stooped down on the ground, and began to write something with his finger, as if He hadn't heard them. They continued asking Him. And He raised Himself up and said to them; "*He that is without sin among you, let him throw the first stone at her.*" Then He stooped down and wrote on the ground again. Those that heard Him were convicted in their own conscience and went out one by one, beginning with the eldest, even unto the last. And Jesus was left alone with the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus had raised Himself up, and saw none but the woman, He told her, "*Woman, where are those that accused you? Has no man condemned you?*" She said, "*No man, Lord.*" And Jesus said unto her, "*Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.*"

I. THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD JOHN 8:12-18

8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.** Who is Jesus speaking to after those who wanted to stone the woman has left? Well, according to 8:13 He's talking to the Pharisees, and according to 8:27, He's also talking to some Jewish leaders because in 8:20 Jesus is in the treasury of the temple as He teach. So, right now Jesus makes a great claim and promise.

1. The great claim is: **I am the light of the world**. It was not just for the Jews.
2. The great promise is twofold: **he that followeth Me**. That meant anyone.
 - Shall not walk in darkness.
 - Shall have the light of life.

First of all, Jesus is I Am—He is the Light who has entered the world that John the Baptist had spoken of. We've talked about Him being "*The Bread of Life*" earlier in (6:35). So, this is the second "*I Am*" statement. Man is in darkness even though he can see, he still needs the Light of Jesus. A man is in darkness until he begins to accept, trust, and follow Jesus to be saved.

1. The darkness refers to the world of the natural man who does not know Jesus Christ. The natural man walks in ignorance of Jesus Christ.
2. The darkness symbolizes unpreparedness and unwatchfulness—the time when evil occurs.
3. The darkness is loved by men. Sinful men do their evil deeds under the cover of darkness.
4. The darkness is hostile to light; don't want the truth shining through.

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So Jesus claims to be that Light for the entire world. And if they follow Him, they won't walk in darkness, but they will have the light of life. The reason He says I again say this is because in 1:4-5 He says *"In him was life and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness and the darkness comprehended it not."* John came to witness of that light (1:7). comes into the world for the world to receive truth. Man has to be *delivered from the power of darkness* (Colos.1:13a). *God calls us out of darkness into His marvelous light* (1 Pt.2:9b). He's translated (transferred) us into the kingdom of His dear Son (Colos.1:13b). This Light can't be seen apart from Christ. It is Christ who reveals that light. Following Jesus reveals who you are. Darkness is not shadowing you, but it is the light of life. There is a change in our appearance; in our attitude; in our behavior. I don't walk like I used to walk. I don't talk like I used to talk; I don't live like I used to live because there is a light that lights my life, living in me to diffuse darkness as I stay close to Him! We reflect His light, just as the moon reflects the sun's light!

8:13 The Pharisees therefore said unto him, Thou bearest record of thyself; thy record is not true. Oh oh, the Pharisees rejects what Jesus has said. They challenge that He's the Light. They're saying He's talking about Himself meaning bearing witness of Himself, and they say His record is not true. They are remembering what was said in 5:31 *"If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true. But, they didn't finish all of what Jesus had said because the next verse (5:32) says *There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true.*"* Isn't it bad when others try to tell you who they think you are better than you can tell it? Well, that's what the Pharisees are trying to do.

8:14 Jesus answered and said unto them, Though I bear record of myself, yet my record is true: for I know whence I came, and whither I go; but ye cannot tell whence I come, and whither I go. Don't worry, Jesus knows what they're up to, and He tells them how He knows Himself better than they do. He tells them that His record is true. He knows where He came from, and where He's going, but they have no idea where He came from or where He's going. Why? For a very simple reason, unbelievers cannot penetrate nor see the spiritual world. What Jesus is saying is that He had come from heaven; from the spiritual dimension, and He had been an eyewitness of heaven. He had been in the very presence of God Himself, and God had sent Him from heaven into this world to declare the glorious message of salvation. The Word that is declared unto us is to be declared by us to others.

8:15 Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man. Christ shows us that the Pharisees are judging from an external perspective, for Jesus says I judge no man. He came not to judge in this earthly ministry at this time, but He came to save mankind. Men judge after the flesh, that is, by appearance. Men judge by what they see and know. However, if men are to judge Jesus' claim, they cannot do it on the basis of physical evidence. Why? - Because Jesus is not of this world.

8:16 And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not alone, but I and the Father that sent me. He didn't judge after the flesh, but if He did judge, Jesus' judgment would be true, for it was by God's presence. Therefore, He was not alone. The Father was with Him; the Father sent Him, so what He claimed and did was of the Father. Here Jesus calls God *"Father."* He had a Father/Son relationship with God. He knew God in a very personal and intimate way as Father. Therefore, He alone could know all the truths: where He came from, and who it was that sent Him. He came with a glorious message of salvation: *"I Am the Light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."*

8:17 It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true. Jesus now appeals to the law of man. The law required two witnesses to validate a claim. Deut.19:15b says, *"One witness shall not* 
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rise up against a man...at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established."

8:18 I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me.

Jesus says He has His two witnesses: I and the Father.

1. **I am one that bear witness of myself.**
2. **the Father that sent me beareth witness of me**

So, are you going to go against that testimony?

II. BLIND TO THE LIGHT JOHN 8:19-22

8:19 Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also. They are really not taking Jesus' Word for this. The Pharisees wanted the Father to appear. They are asking Jesus to present Him; present your Father. They wanted physical evidence. They wanted Him there so they could see Him witness. Now, if their forefathers had never seen God, what made them think they would! Jesus already knew that they judged by sight and appearance. As I heard someone say, *"They don't want that smoke."* They couldn't even stand the smoke or His voice on Mt Sinai when God spoke to them. No they don't want what they're asking for. Jesus lets them know that they themselves don't know who Jesus or the Father because if they knew who Jesus was, they would know the Father too.

1. The unbeliever does not know Jesus.
2. The unbeliever does not know the Father.

The Light of the world had come into the world, but they knew Him not. He even spoke their law to them, but they were blinded by their own ideas about God.

8:20 These words spake Jesus in the treasury, as he taught in the temple: and no man laid hands on him; for his hour was not yet come. The great tragedy was that Jesus was rejected in the temple as He taught. It is the same in our churches today. The *"treasury"* was where the 13 chests stood where people put their voluntary contributions for the sacrifices and offerings for the temple. The religionists wanted nothing to do with Him. But, Jesus lets us know that His hour had not yet come to suffer and die. That meant God protected Him. No man could lay hands on Him. How many times we've been in an accident and came out unscaved? – It's because God protected us!

8:21 Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come. This is brief and to the point whether they understood it or not. The earthshaking point was when Jesus leaves them, no more help is available, and they will die in their sins, and it will be too late, for they can't come where He is.

- When He says **I go away**, he's not talking about the place He was in in general. He's talking about leaving the world. We have to remember this is not Jesus' home, just like this is not our home. We are not here for eternity. So, if Jesus had to go away, we will have to also. Are we making preparations?
- When He says **ye shall seek me**, for there will be a time when man resolves that he can't get right on his own. NKJV of 7:34 says, *"You will seek Me and not find Me, and where I am you cannot come."* To connect with Jesus, we must have that relationship with Him.
- And when He says **you shall die in your sins**, He means the sin of unbelief, because man's sin is singular. So, as long as man is in a state of disbelief, he dies in that state. How do you know

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you're in it? Because you haven't fully given your life to the One who knows it and can change it.

- And that leads to when He says **whither I go, ye cannot come.** 1 Cor.15:50 says "*Flesh and Blood cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven*" There was a separation between the Father and Son when our sins were placed upon Him, so there will be a separation of us and Christ if we stay in sin. Wherever Christ is the unbeliever cannot go. This is a tragedy! So, it is expedient that you: **Accept Christ today in your life!**

8:22 Then said the Jews, Will he kill himself? because he saith, Whither I go, ye cannot come. This is where the carnal mind cannot receive the things of the spirit. The Jews really thought Jesus was going to kill Himself because He said where He's going, they couldn't come. Surely, if He was going to die, they didn't want any part of following Him nor dying. However, it is their unbelief that will keep them from Jesus.

While some are praying at this time for a world of utopia, that's not going to happen here. Utopia means a world of perfection, provision, possession, comfort, protection, peace, and security. That means freedom from all negative circumstances, freedom from sin and its bondages, freedom from death and freedom from hell. It's not found here in this world. It's only found in the God Man Jesus Christ!

III. ABOVE AND BENEATH JOHN 8:23-27

8:23 And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world. Jesus clarifies His statement. He tells them that He was not of this world. He came from above, not beneath. He came from heaven. We're the ones on earth. So, right now they're looking at God and Man—the God Man Jesus Christ, their fulfillment! He is Man through the flesh of His mother Mary who had the Holy Spirit come upon her, and the miraculous power of the Highest overshadowing her! Therefore, Jesus is the eternal preexistent God. God wrapped Himself in human flesh. And He's the Son of God, sent by His power, the Holy Spirit into the world. Therefore, He was originally from above, and His Light in the world will bring man out of darkness. He is fully God and fully Man!

8:24 I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins. Jesus reiterates (repeats) to them again that they will die in their sins if they don't believe that He is the Son of God, the Light of the World. He's even saying it twice in this verse. How many times will we have to hear it before we believe it? They and we have to believe that He is who He says He is.

- He is the God Man. • He is the Light of the world. • He is from above. • He and the Father bear record.

And by believing, then we won't hear those Words: "*I never knew you.*"

8:25 Then said they unto him, Who art thou? And Jesus saith unto them, Even the same that I said unto you from the beginning. I guess they thought Jesus' story was going to change when they ask, "*Who are you?*" Jesus says that He's the same One He's been claiming to be from the beginning. He introduced Himself as the Light of the World in the beginning. Only liars change their story. The truth is going to be truth all day long.

8:26 I have many things to say and to judge of you: but he that sent me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I have heard of him. Jh.6: 63 says, "*The Words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.*" Jesus had many things to say to them, and to judge, but they had to get over the first hump or the first hurdle of who Jesus was, or even who sent Him. Jesus lets them know that He's

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not speaking on His own. He came to speak to the world those things which He heard of His Father.

8:27 They understood not that he spake to them of the Father. And they still misunderstood that He was speaking the things He heard from His Father.

SUMMARY:

Jesus is speaking to the Pharisees and some Jewish leaders in the treasury of the temple as He teach. He has made a great claim and promise. First of all, Jesus is I Am—and has claimed that He is the Light of the World. When you follow Me you shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. A man is in darkness until he begins to accept, trust, and follow Jesus to be saved. Apart from Christ man is lost. It is Christ who reveals that light of life; that truth man needs. The Pharisees rejects what Jesus has said. They're saying that His record is not true. Jesus tells them how He knows Himself better than they do. He tells them that His record is true. He knows where He came from, and where He's going, but they have no idea where He came from or where He's going. He had been in the very presence of God Himself, and God had sent Him from heaven into this world to declare the glorious message of salvation. Christ shows the Pharisees of judging from an external perspective, for Jesus says, *"I judge no man."* Men judge by what they see and know. However, if men are to judge Jesus' claim, they cannot do it on the basis of physical evidence. Why? - Because Jesus is not of this world. But if Jesus did judge, His judgment would be true, for it was by God's presence, therefore, Jesus was not alone. The Father was with Him, and the Father sent Him, so what He claimed and did was of the Father. Jesus now appeals to the law of man. The law required two witnesses to validate a claim. Deut.19:15b says *"One witness shall not rise up against a man...at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established."* Jesus has His two witnesses: Himself and the Father. **I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me (8:12-18).**

They are really not taking Jesus' Word for this. The Pharisees want the Father to appear. They are asking Jesus to present Him; present your Father. Jesus lets them know that they themselves don't know who Jesus is, or the Father is because if they knew who Jesus was, they would know the Father too. The great tragedy was that Jesus was rejected in the temple as He taught. His hour had not yet come to suffer and die. But he gave them some profound statements: **I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come.** The Jews really thought Jesus was going to kill Himself because He said where He's going, they couldn't come **(8:19-22).**

Jesus clarifies His statement. He tells them that He was not of this world. He came from above, not beneath. He came from heaven. We're the ones on earth. Therefore, He was originally from above. His Light in the world will bring man out of darkness. Jesus reiterates (repeats) to them again that they will die in their sins if they don't believe that He is the Son of God, the Light of the World. They asked Jesus again, *"Who art thou?"* I guess they thought Jesus' story was going to change. Jesus says that He's the same One of whom He's been claiming to be from the beginning. Jesus had many things to say to them, and to judge, but they had to get over the first hump or the first hurdle of who Jesus was or even who sent Him. Jesus lets them know that He's not speaking on His own. He came to speak to the world those things which He heard of His Father. And they still misunderstood that He was speaking the things He heard from His Father **(8:23-27).**