

John 7-8 and the Gospel

May 22, 2022

We're going through the gospel of John, and are seeing that Jesus keeps talking about the gospel, about who He is, that He's the Savior, that He saves people from sin, and gives them life, spiritual life, everlasting life, an eternal relationship with Him and His Father. And as we talk about the gospel, we must remember two key points, that He takes away our sins, and that He gives us life. John 1:29, John 6:35

Last time we talked about how Jesus was in Jerusalem during the Feast of Booths. And the leading Jews, the religious leaders, were there, and more and more, they did not like Jesus, and, in fact, wanted to kill Him. John 7:1 - "*the Jews were seeking to kill Him.*" But Jesus was a very popular figure, well-liked by the average Jewish person. He was a great teacher, He healed people, He raised people from the dead, and He cast out demons. And there was a lot of debate, discussion, and confusion about Jesus and who He was. And many wondered if Jesus was the coming King, the Christ, the one prophesied in the OT, the One who'd lead Israel to be a powerful nation, one like David 1000 years earlier.

Now Jesus, at that time, wasn't interested in being the King over the Jews and the world, but we know that it will happen in the future. Jesus' message to the Jews and Jewish leaders was that He was to be the Savior at that time, which was clearly explained in Isaiah 53, but most of them didn't understand that.

And for Jesus to be the Savior, He had to be God and man. And Jesus kept telling them He was the Son of God, God in the flesh, and that His heavenly Father sent Him to earth to save people from their sins. Luke 19:10; John 1:29, 3:16

- Now many Jews knew who Jesus was physically; they knew about His parents and that He was from Nazareth, but they didn't know Him in a spiritual, relational, and godly way, and if they weren't saved, weren't born again, then surely, they didn't know the Father. And Jesus keeps talking about His Father. And He loved His Father, and learned from Him, and was perfectly united with Him, and did whatever His Father wanted Him to do.

Now we've talked about how Jesus wants to save us from sin, death, and hell, but John's gospel talks a lot about what Jesus wants to give us. And He wants to give us life, eternal life.

He wants to richly bless our lives, He wants to show us His love and His goodness. Eph. 1:3 And in John 6, we learned that Jesus is the bread of life, our daily spiritual food.

- John 4:13-14. This says Jesus is living water. And we all know we need water to live, and so too, we need spiritual water to live, and this water symbolizes the life of Jesus, and we need Jesus to spiritually live. Phil. 1:21, Gal. 2:20

John 7:37-39. In John 4, Jesus was talking to one woman, but now Jesus is in the temple and He's talking to 1000's of people, and He cries out - He wants everyone to hear what He has to say. And again, Jesus said He is this living water. Now John 4 talked about this well of water springing up to eternal life, and here we read that Jesus is spiritually speaking, a river of living water. We've all seen rapidly flowing rivers, where the water is rushing along and it's fresh, clean, and powerful - it's not dirty or stagnant or smelly. So too the life God has for us is like this water - it's holy, it's powerful, and life changing - it spiritually transforms us, refreshes us, energizes us, and fills us with love, joy, and purpose. And it's by the Holy Spirit that we are filled up with this living water.

John 8:12. Jesus is still at the temple, and is still teaching the people, and He makes this important, profound, and powerful statement, that He is the light of the world. Now during this feast, they would light up these four huge candelabra, and the light from them would shoot up into the night sky and be seen from all around. And Jesus is saying that He's the light of the world - and He wants to spiritually light up the hearts of men.

That Jesus says He is the light of the world means the whole world. He's not just the light for some people, or some group of people, or some race, but for people in the whole world. I think of the sun that's up in the sky, and it physically lights up the whole earth. Similarly, Jesus, is the light of the world, and His purpose is to be a spiritual light to the whole world. Now the fact that Jesus is the light of the world is more evidence that He is God. For man is sinful, and sinful man can never spiritually light up the world. Only God can do that, and specifically, it's through Jesus Christ, for He is the light of the world.

John 1:1-4, 9-11. About 2000 years ago, Jesus came to this world. He lived among the people for 33 years, and died to pay for our sins, rose again, and then went back to heaven. And as the Light, the spiritual light, He came into a dark and sinful world. Matt. 4:16. Now most of the people did not know who He was, that He was God in the flesh, and they rejected Him, did not believe in Him, and therefore they remained in the darkness.

Now Jesus was perfectly holy, and He lived in this dark, sinful world. You know what it's like to walk in a room that is totally dark, and you don't like it, you want there to be light. And so here was Jesus living in this sin dominated, sin infected, spiritually dark world, and I am sure it was hard for Him, being surrounded and inundated by sin. And Jesus was the light, and His purpose was to be a light in this dark and sinful world.

- John 3:19-21. The people loved their own sin, they loved evil, they loved the darkness, and they hated Jesus, they hated the Light, for He kept telling them about their sin, and they didn't like that, they didn't want to be exposed - and so many people wanted to kill Jesus.

But as it was back then so it is today. We look at the world and we see all this sin, this darkness in our schools, cities, country, and government, and in our movies, songs, and on the internet, and even in the churches. It's unbelievable how bad, how evil, how wicked, how dark it is getting in our world. More and more people are openly rebelling against God.

Now this spiritual darkness comes from sin - sin is the source of all spiritual darkness.

- Prov. 2:13 - *"... those who leave the paths of uprightness... walk in the ways of darkness."*

- Pr. 4:19 - *"The way of the wicked is like darkness; they do not know over what they stumble."*

- Is. 5:20 - *"Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil, who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness."* And in our world today, a great many people are so deceived, for they're thinking that light is darkness, and that darkness is light. Rom. 1:18-21.

It's tragic that people walk in darkness, but it's their own fault that they sin. They can't blame anyone else for their sin and the darkness that results, the bad things that happen in their lives, the sadness, fears and worries, the conflicts, the lack of joy, peace, and hope.

- John 12:35 tells us, *"He who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes."*

But the good news is that Jesus saves those whom His Father has chosen, those who come to Him and believe that He died to pay for their sins, and then rose from the dead.

- Acts 26:15, 18 - *"For this purpose I have appeared to you... to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God."*

- 1 Thess. 5:5 - *"You are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night and darkness."*

And as believers, because of Christ, we're light in the Lord, we're children of light, and we're to live like children of light, and be lights in the world, living pure and holy lives.

Whereas Jesus is the Light of the world, we're little lights, and wherever we go, by our words and deeds, we're to be shining for Jesus. Matt. 5:14-16, Eph. 5:8-14

- We should have compassion on the lost, we should love them like Jesus loved us, and we should pray that God opens their eyes so they see their sin and that they're guilty. As God opens doors, might we share the gospel, and the Savior will save some of them from their sins.

John 8:12. There's a key word we need to apply to our lives if we're to practically have the Light in our lives. It says we're to follow Jesus. That means Jesus is the leader, and He is leading us, and we are going after Him, and are following Him. And we are not following at a distance, but we are closely following Him. To follow Jesus means we know Jesus and trust Him. It means we're learning from Him, that we are willing to go where He wants us to go, and do what He wants us to do. And those who follow Jesus are His followers, His disciples. Instead of following sinful people and being led astray by the world, they are following Jesus. Luke 9:23-24, Psalm 1

1 John 1:5-9. God is Light, which means Jesus is Light. And there's no darkness, no sin in Them. Now this passage talks about one major aspect of what it means to be a follower of Jesus, specifically that we won't walk in the darkness, which is what it says in Jn. 8:12. When a Christian confesses his sin, he practices the truth, and then experiences forgiveness. That is, he sees the Light, and has fellowship with God and Jesus, and that results in having fellowship with Christians, which is absolutely essential to our lives.

John 8:12. And if we follow Jesus then we will have the Light of life. We've been talking about sin and darkness. And the point is that Jesus is the Light, and therefore, the means by which we won't walk in the darkness, but will have spiritual life, eternal life - we'll experience true life. And being holy is foundational to experiencing this life, and to our entire lives as Christians. Being holy, living a righteous life, is essential if we are to follow Jesus, be a good disciple, be filled with love and joy, and live a godly life and bear fruit for Him.

Rom. 6:12-13, Eph. 4:20-24. Again, being holy, being righteous, not walking in the darkness, but walking in the light, is foundational to your Christian life, to living for God everyday of your life. Here are some examples - Prov. 10:2, 3, 6, 7, 11, 16, 20, 21, 24, 25, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32

John 8:13-18. The Pharisees said Jesus' testimony wasn't true, and that wasn't right when they said that, for that meant they were calling Jesus a liar, and so Jesus defends Himself. First, Jesus says that His testimony is true. And it was true, for Jesus was and is the truth, and He never lies - He always tells the truth. John 1:14, 17

Second, Jesus said His testimony was true, and of course it was, for Jesus knew where He had come from and where He was going. He had been in heaven with His Father since eternity past. He was now on earth with the purpose of saving man from sin and death, and He was going back to heaven to be with His Father, and then in the future, to rapture the church and be King over this world. Jesus knew all about His life and therefore everything He said about His life was true.

Third, He says His judgments are true. And these judgments, that is, His understanding, His knowledge, His decisions were not just His own, they were from God, His Father. Jesus didn't do or say anything apart from His Father. John 5:19-20

- And by saying this, Jesus was saying that He was God, and that He wasn't making fleshly and purely human judgments like the Pharisees. As God, Jesus was always telling the truth, He as always saying and doing what was right. And it's important, as we read His words, and all that God has to say in the Bible, that we believe His words, and obey His commands, that we are filled with the Spirit, and then we will truly live.