

Lighthouse Bible Church

July 21st, 2013

John 8: 13 – 20 *Scripture Reading 1st Timothy 1: 12 – 17*

‘Do you know Me or My Father’

Stand – Read – Pray

Remember last week we just looked at one verse of scripture that really sets the tone for the rest of chapter 8. Jesus was in the temple, in the Court of Women which is also the treasury, teaching and it was just after the Feast of Tabernacles had ended or right thereabouts.

Jesus told the people in the treasury area of the temple Court of Women **that ‘I am the light of the world, he who follows Me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life’** and we know why He said that. Because during the Feast of Tabernacles, just at sunset, they would burn these huge candelabra type lights that were some 75 feet high in the courtyard and their light would dispel all throughout the city of Jerusalem.

These lights were lit to commemorate the wilderness wanderings of the nation of Israel in the time of Moses and specifically to remind them of the light of the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night to lead them through the wilderness.

Jesus was in essence saying the nation of Israel had the light of God to guide and lead them but I am the light for the entire world, so follow me out of the darkness of your sin into the light of everlasting light and life. He was also saying, as we saw last time by His reference to Him being the light, that He was God.

Remember **1st John 1: 5** saying **God is light** and several different verses dealing with God as light.

So, again, while Jesus is in the temple teaching, His arch enemies, the Pharisees are there hearing what He has to say. Remember that they had just tried to trap Jesus into saying something that they could accuse Him of and then arrest Him. They used a woman caught in adultery and tested Him with what He would say and He ended up turning the tables on them and devastating them with His answer 'he who is without sin let him cast the first stone'.

They ended up walking away because they had been convicted in their conscience because of their own sinful hearts that were thinking and probably doing the same thing they were accusing this woman of.

Well, they are back again and they are about to challenge what Jesus just said about being the light of the world, in essence being God, because God is light and no one else can make that claim to be able to be the spiritual light for the entire world. So let's see what they say to Jesus in Verse 13.

Verse 13: the Pharisees therefore said to Him, You bear witness of Yourself; Your witness is not true.

What they are saying is 'you are claiming to be the Messiah, the Christ, God in human form, and you have no one to corroborate what you are saying as true'. And as we have already seen, He didn't need any other corroborative evidence. He is the Messiah, the Christ, and God because of what He has already done by way of miracles, by what He has said to them and by everything that He has fulfilled in His life that were written in the Old Testament.

But in their ignorant unbelief they choose not to believe anything He has said or done up to this point. So they try to bring a point of law from the O.T. to bear on what He is saying when they say to Him 'you can't bear witness of Yourself, because if it is just You doing it then Your witness cannot be true'; and they were right.

They were challenging Jesus and His claim as the Messiah, as God, on the basis of an Old Testament law that was carried over even into the New Testament. And the law was this; no legal or important matter of law could be established without 2 or 3 witnesses attesting to that. That is what He says to them in Verse 17.

In **Numbers 35: 30** it says **whoever kills a person, the murderer shall be put to death on the testimony of witnesses but one witness is not sufficient testimony against a person for the death penalty.** So you couldn't put someone to death on the testimony of just one person. **Deuteronomy 17: 6** says a similar thing **whoever is deserving of death shall be put to death on the testimony of 2 or 3 witnesses; he shall not be put to death on the testimony of one witness.**

Not only did it take 2 or 3 witnesses in a murder case but in almost any case where an accusation is being made. In **Deuteronomy 19: 15** says **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.** That same principle carries over into the N.T. in **Matthew 18: 16** and **2nd Corinthians 13: 1** and other places as well.

We still use the same principle, in many ways, today. There has to be corroborative evidence to convict someone; or multiple witnesses to confirm what had taken place.

So what these religious hypocrites are in essence saying is that your witness, your testimony about yourself, about who You say You are that violates God's law by the way, is not legally valid because you have no one to substantiate what you are saying. We can't take your word for who You say You are, there has to be more witnesses.

Listen, if they are not going to believe Him by the miracles they have witnessed or the teaching they have heard, they are not going to believe Him even if one or two more came up and said, ‘yea, this is the Messiah, the Christ, God with us’. You want to know why, unbelief, as we have seen before, will never have enough evidence to prove the truth or believe the truth. There is no proof to convince unbelief because, in this case, they are too busy trying to discredit, criticize, trap and demean Jesus.

And by the way, there are people like that today, who will not be convinced about who Jesus really is unless God chooses to open your heart to the truth. Then and only then can faith come by hearing. Then and only then can the gospel of Jesus Christ convert a soul. Then and only then can you have the faith to repent and believe the gospel that can save your soul. So how does Jesus answer them, look at Verse 14.

Verse 14: 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.

Remember back in **John 5: 31** Jesus said **if I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true** and there He went on to show that He did have the witness of His **Father**, of His **works** and **words** and of the **Scriptures**. So maybe the Pharisees were challenging Him here because He said earlier that His testimony wasn’t true and now He is saying it is true.

Jesus said to them ‘I am telling you the truth, I am not lying’ **My witness is true**. The law required the testimony of 2 or 3 witnesses, in part, because people tend to lie or exaggerate things, right. One person can be telling the truth but because we live in a society built on lies, they are hard to believe.

These Pharisees built their lives and their religion on lies and hypocrisy and when someone comes along and says 'I am telling the truth', it is hard for them to take, because they lie and they think everyone is lying. We tend to make everyone what we are. But Jesus says to them 'My witness is true' and He gives them several reasons why He can be believed.

Number one reason He says in Verse 14 **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.**

Jesus can testify of the truthfulness of Himself because He knows where He came from and He knows where He is going. He knows His origin and He knows His destination and everything in between and no one else but Him knows that, that is why He can testify of Himself.

He knows that He came from the Father **John 5: 37** said. He knows that what He says and does is the Father's perfect will **John 5: 19** said. He knows that He is going back to the Father **John 7: 33** said. They **do not know where He came from and where He is going.** So they must rely or deny His testimony on the basis of knowing Him and believing what He says.

What He says here that seems to contradict what He said in **John 5: 31** where He says **if I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true** and here He is saying that My witness is true. The difference is; in John 5 He is talking about Himself from the perspective of His humanity, His humanness, and that would require more witnesses to affirm what He is saying.

Here, He is talking about Himself from the perspective of His divine person, His deity, as He has just told them that He is the light of the world, He is God and so He doesn't need anyone else to bear witness of Him.

What Jesus is saying in essence is that He knows what He is talking about and He can be believed on His testimony alone. But because you don't know Me, where I came from (you think I came from Joseph and Mary in Nazareth) and you don't know where I am going, you cannot nor will you believe what I say.

By the way, just as a side note, we know that Jesus came from eternity past, He has always existed and He is going to eternity future because He will always exist. Veiled in this statement is His deity as the **eternal** God.

He says, 'what right do you have to judge Me, you don't know anything about Me. You don't know where I came from and you don't know where I am going. Then He says this in Verse 15.

Verse 15 You judge according to the flesh, I judge no one.

Jesus says to them 'you not only don't know Me and where I came from and where I am going, you try to judge Me based on that lack of knowledge and what you perceive as being right.

Here they are judging Jesus by what they think they know about Him and having no idea that He is deity, God in human form, come from God and going back to God and these mere men are in essence judging God.

But isn't that true even of people today who try to judge who Christ is based on their ignorance or false religious beliefs. You can ask unbelievers who Jesus is and they will give you all kinds of answers, none of which are true, but they believe it based on their lack of knowledge and being deceived about who Jesus really is.

Jesus says 'you judge according to the flesh' **but I judge no one**. He says you are doing something that I would not even do. I don't judge people superficially and externally; and the reason is, is because He knows what is in the heart of men, right.

You say 'wait a minute' He said earlier in **John 5: 22** that the Father judges no one but has committed all judgment to the Son.. and now He is saying He doesn't judge anyone.

Well, what He is saying is this. He is not judging anyone NOW. His mission and ministry as **John 3: 17** says was not to condemn or judge the world but that the world through Him might be saved.

But, there is coming a time, when He will judge everyone as **John 5: 27** says and in that judgment some will be raised to the resurrection of life and some to the resurrection of condemnation. He will, as **1st Corinthians 4: 5** says bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then Jesus says in Verse 16.

Verse 16: and yet if I do judge, My judge is true for I am not alone, but I am with the Father who sent Me.

Jesus says '**and yet if I do judge**' and He will, someday, His judgment will be absolutely true. He will not make one mistake about anyone and where they are at spiritually in His judgment of them; and the reason His judgment is true is **He is not alone, but I am with the Father who sent Me**.

Here Jesus is saying that He is with the Father and the Father is with Him because they are ONE. I am not alone because God the Father is with Me and in Me. He is saying that He is one with God.

Do you remember back in **John 5: 18** *Read*. Well, He is doing the same thing here again. He will say later in **John 14: 10** **do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father in Me...**He will say in **John 16: 32** **the hour is coming when you will be scattered and will leave Me alone and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.**

The Jews hated Him for saying that back in John 5: 18 and wanted Him dead, just think what they are feeling now. But it is the truth, Jesus says My testimony is true because God is true and I and God are one. But the Pharisees didn't want the truth, they wanted Him dead and they could care less about 2 or 3 or 100 witnesses about who He is. So Jesus says in Verse 17.

Verse 17 **it is also written in your law that the testimony of two men is true.** Do you want to abide by the law, do you want witnesses about who I am that will be true, well let Me give you two. Look at Verse 18

Verse 18: **I am One who bears witness of Myself and the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me.** Do you want two witnesses, how about Me and God. You can't get any better than that. We have been together since the beginning; and I know God and God knows Me because we are One, eternally. Then look what the Pharisees say to Him in Verse 19.

Verse 19: **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.**

They were, in essence, saying 'show us Your Father'. We want to see this other witness. And of course, Jesus has all along been referring to His Father in heaven, God, as His Father and they knew that, so they are saying this in somewhat of a **derisive mocking** way.

They were not willing to acknowledge that God was His Father even though He repeatedly said that He was, so they look at this from the earthly perspective of His earthly father. Show us your father, show us this second witness. And, by the way, they are asking this in part to degrade Him because of who His earthly father, Joseph, was.

By all accounts, Joseph was probably dead by this time in Jesus' life because there is no record of him at all and when Jesus dies on the cross in just a few months, He commends His mother to the Apostle John, and He wouldn't have done that if Joseph was still around.

So they may be saying 'show us your father, o you can't because he is dead, you don't have a second witness'. Or they could be insinuating that 'if Joseph were alive and you wanted to bring him in as your second witness, what kind of witness would he be'. Look at **Verse 41** 'we were not born of fornication, we have one Father...'

So Jesus responds to them at the end of Verse 19 by saying **You know neither Me nor My Father. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also.**

Jesus tells them, once again, that they don't know anything about who He is. They know Him in the physical sense of coming from Nazareth and being a carpenter's Son and His earthly parents were Joseph and Mary. But they don't know Him at all in the spiritual sense of Him being the Messiah, the Christ, God in human form.

Jesus also tells them that they not only don't know Him but they don't know His **Father**, which is God.

That would have been another slap in the face for those religious leaders who prided themselves in knowing God as their Father, and Jesus says you have no idea who God is. And then He tells them why they don't know God.

If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also. Jesus, in essence, is saying that you cannot know God apart from Me. Isn't that what was said in **John 1: 18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.**

There is no way of knowing God apart from knowing Christ because Christ is the revelation of God the Father, He is the exact representation of the Father. As a matter of fact Jesus said in **John 14: 9 ...he who has seen Me has ... seen the Father...Verse 7 if you had known Me, you would have known My Father also and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.**

It is the same today. You cannot say that you know God and believe in God and yet you do not believe in Jesus as the Son of God, God in human form, the 2nd person of the trinity. And as we have seen before, that is what many religions teach today; belief in God and belief in Jesus as someone other than God and that kind of belief will damn that person to hell.

Listen to this; someone who is religious like the Pharisees or like any other religion or religious person of today that claims to know God but really doesn't because they don't know Jesus, will eventually be antagonistic, hateful, hurtful and do all they can to silence the true Christian, the true believer in Christ.

They will eventually treat you like what Jesus said in **John 16: 1 – 4 Read**

You say, 'how could someone do that?' Well, look at the apostle Paul who was a very religious man that did not know Christ and thought he knew God.

In **Philippians 3: 5 – 6**: it says **he was of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews, concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.** In **Galatians 1: 14**: Paul said that **He advanced in Judaism beyond many of his contemporaries in his own country, being more exceedingly zealous for the *traditions of my fathers*.** He was the religious elite but he didn't know Christ and God and look how he treated those who did.

Acts 22: 3 – 4: **I was zealous toward God ... I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women...** **Acts 26: 10 – 11**: **I shut up the saints in prison, having receive authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme and being *exceedingly enraged* against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities.**

He told the Galatian church in **Galatians 1: 13** that **he persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it.**

We are beginning to see that happening more and more today and it is not usually from the agnostic or atheist, it is from the religious unbelievers who have a zeal for God but don't know Christ and therefore don't truly know God.

And when you come along and speak the truth about who Christ is, they will be ever increasingly intolerant, antagonistic and hateful to you.

Verse 20 **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.**

And believe me, they wanted to lay their hands on Him with what He had just said to them in the temple. But they couldn't, because His hour had not yet come.

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Introduction and review:

John 1: 5

Verse 13:

Numbers 35: 30, Deuteronomy 17: 6
Deuteronomy 19: 15, Matthew 18: 16
2nd Corinthians 13: 1

Verse 14:

John 5: 31, *John 5: 37, John 5: 19, John 7: 33*

Verse 15:

John 5: 22, John 3: 17, *John 5: 27*
1st Corinthians 4: 5

Verse 16:

John 5: 18, John 14: 10, John 16: 32

Verses 17 – 20:

John 8: 41, John 1: 18, John 14: 7, 9
John 16: 1 – 4, Philippians 3: 5 – 6
Galatians 1: 14, Acts 22: 3 – 4
Acts 26: 10 – 11, Galatians 1: 13

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Verse 14:

John 5: 31, *John 5: 37, John 5: 19, John 7: 33*

Verse 15:

John 5: 22, John 3: 17, *John 5: 27*
1st Corinthians 4: 5

Verse 16:

John 5: 18, John 14: 10, John 16: 32

Verses 17 – 20:

John 8: 41, John 1: 18, John 14: 7, 9
John 16: 1 – 4, Philippians 3: 5 – 6
Galatians 1: 14, Acts 22: 3 – 4
Acts 26: 10 – 11, Galatians 1: 13