

# The Gospel of John

## Lesson 8: *The Light of the World* John 8 (22 Oct 26AD)

John 7:53 Then they all went home, 8:1 but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

2 At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. 3 The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group 4 and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. 5 In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?"

6 They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. 7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." 8 Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

9 At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. 10 Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

11 "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." 13 The Pharisees challenged him, "Here you are, appearing as your own witness; your testimony is not valid."

14 Jesus answered, "Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where I came from and where I am going. But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going. 15 You judge by human standards; I pass judgment on no one. 16 But if I do judge, my decisions are true, because I am not alone. I stand with the Father, who sent me. 17 In your own Law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is true. 18 I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father, who sent me."

19 Then they asked him, "Where is your father?" "You do not know me or my Father," Jesus replied. "If you knew me, you would know my Father also." 20 He spoke these words while teaching in the temple courts near the place where the offerings were put. Yet no one seized him, because his hour had not yet come. 21 Once more Jesus said to them, "I am going away, and you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I go, you cannot come."

22 This made the Jews ask, "Will he kill himself? Is that why he says, 'Where I go, you cannot come'?" 23 But he continued, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. 24 I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins." 25 "Who are you?" they asked. "Just what I have been telling you from the beginning," Jesus replied. 26 "I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is trustworthy, and what I have heard from him I tell the world."

27 They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father. 28 So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. 29 The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him." 30 Even as he spoke, many believed in him.

31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." 33 They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"

34 Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. 35 Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. 37 I know that you are Abraham's descendants. Yet you are looking for a way to kill me, because you have no room for my word. 38 I am telling you what I have seen in the Father's presence, and you are doing what you have heard from your father." 39 "Abraham is our father," they answered. "If you were Abraham's children," said Jesus, "then you would do what Abraham did. 40 As it is, you are looking for a way to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do such things.

41 You are doing the works of your own father." "We are not illegitimate children," they protested. "The only Father we have is God himself."

42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me. 43 Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. 44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. 45 Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me! 46 Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me? 47 Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God."

48 The Jews answered him, "Aren't we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?"

49 "I am not possessed by a demon," said Jesus, "but I honor my Father and you dishonor me. 50 I am not seeking glory for myself; but there is one who seeks it, and he is the judge. 51 Very truly I tell you, whoever obeys my word will never see death."

52 At this they exclaimed, "Now we know that you are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet you say that whoever obeys your word will never taste death. 53 Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?"

54 Jesus replied, "If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. 55 Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and obey his word. 56 Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad."

57 "You are not yet fifty years old," they said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!"

58 "Very truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" 59 At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

## *An Adulteress and the Light of the World*

**John 7:53** Then they all went home, **(Not to their booths, because the Feast of Tabernacles was over)** 8:1 but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. **(His home was in Galilee and he intended to come back the next day).** 2 At dawn **(Tuesday 22 October 26AD)** he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the **people** gathered around him, and he sat down to teach **them**. 3 The **teachers** of the law and the **Pharisees** brought in a woman caught in adultery. **(The man was there, but not mentioned)** They made her stand before the group 4 and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. **(By two witnesses)** 5 In the **Law** Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" **(They purposely test Jesus.)**

**Leviticus 20:10** "If a man commits adultery with another man's wife—with the wife of his neighbor—**both** the adulterer and the adulteress are to be put to death.

**Deuteronomy 22:22** If a man is found sleeping with another man's wife, **both** the man who slept with her and the woman must die. You must purge the evil from Israel. 23 If a man happens to meet in a town a virgin pledged to be married and he sleeps with her, 24 you shall take **both** of them to the gate of that town and **stone** them to death—the young woman because she was in a town and did not scream for help, and the man because he violated another man's wife. You must purge the evil from among you.

**Deuteronomy 19:15** One witness is not enough to convict anyone accused of any crime or offense they may have committed. A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.

6 They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. **(“Stone her” would have gotten Jesus in trouble with the Romans, “Not to stone her” with Jewish law)** But Jesus bent down and started to **write on the ground with his finger**. 7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." **(Is it right to stone her while the others have done the same and not been caught?)** 8 Again he stooped down and **wrote on the ground**. **(The sins of each one of them. 10thC Venetian MSS)**

**Jeremiah 17:13** LORD, you are the hope of Israel; all who forsake you will be put to shame. Those who turn away from you will be **written in the dust** because they have forsaken the LORD, the spring of **living water**.

**John 7:38** Whoever **believes in me**, as Scripture has said, rivers of **living water** will flow from within them."

**Exodus 23:1-2** 1 "Do not spread false reports. Do not help a guilty person by being a **malicious witness**. 2 "Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong. When you give testimony in a lawsuit, do not pervert justice by siding with the crowd,

9 At this, those who **heard** began to **go away** one at a time, **(They knew he was right in his judgment)** the older ones first, until **only** Jesus was left, **(The only one who can judge rightfully)** with the woman still standing **there**. 10 Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are **they**? Has no one condemned you?" **(God is willing to forgive woman also.)**

11 "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I **condemn** you," **(John 3:17 - "I came not into the world to condemn the world, but to save.")** Jesus declared. "Go now and **leave your life of sin**." **(Forgiveness breaks the bondage.)**

**2Samuel 12:13** Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." Nathan replied, "**The LORD has taken away your sin.** You are not going to die.

12 When Jesus **spoke** again to the **people**, he said, "I am the **light** of the **world**. (**Jesus is greater than the rising sun that lights the world**) Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (**Christ shines his light on our path**) 13 The **Pharisees challenged** him, "Here you are, appearing as **your own witness**; your testimony is not valid."

**John 3:19** This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

14 Jesus answered, "Even if I testify on my own behalf, **my testimony is valid**, for I know **where** I came from and **where** I am going. But you have no idea **where** I come from or **where** I am going. (**He is truth, from heaven**) 15 You judge by **human standards**; (**Human standards are according to unbelief**) I pass judgment on no one. 16 But if I do judge, my decisions are true, because I am not alone. I stand with the **Father**, who sent me. 17 In **your own Law (This is also Jesus' law)** it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is true. 18 I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the **Father**, who sent me."

**John 5:31** "If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true. 32 There is another who testifies in my favor, and I know that his testimony about me is true. ... 37 And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form, 38 nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent.

19 Then they asked him, "Where is your **father**?" (**No man raped Mary**) "You do not know me or my **Father**," Jesus replied. "**If you knew me**, you would know my **Father** also." (**They do not really know God, nor have a relationship with Jesus**) 20 He spoke these words while teaching in the **temple courts** near the place where the offerings were put. Yet no one **seized** him, because his hour had not yet come. 21 Once more Jesus said to them, "I am going away, and you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I go, **you cannot come**."

22 This made the Jews ask, "Will he **kill himself**? (**He lay down his life**) Is that why he says, 'Where I go, you cannot come'?" 23 But he continued, "You are from below; **I am from above**. You are of this world; I am not of this world. (**He will go back to God above, not hell below as does the suicide**) 24 I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not **believe** that **I am** he, (**He claims to be the "I AM"**) **you will indeed die in your sins**." 25 "Who are you?" they asked. "Just what I have been telling you **from the beginning**," Jesus replied. 26 "I have much to say in judgment of you. **But** he who sent me is trustworthy, and what I have heard from him I tell the world."

**Genesis 9:5** And for your lifeblood I will surely **demand an accounting**. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each human being, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of another human being.

**Isaiah 43:10** "You are my **witnesses**," declares the LORD, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that **I am** he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me. 11 I, even I, am the LORD, and apart from me there is no savior.

27 They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father. 28 So Jesus said, "When you have **lifted up** the Son of Man, **then** you will know that **I am** he (**The cross makes it clear**) and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. 29 The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him." 30 Even as he spoke, many **believed** in him. (**Many Pharisees came to Jesus after the resurrection. No man would willingly go to the cross without sin - only one sent by God. God stays with those who please him.**)

**Isaiah 52:13** See, my servant will act wisely; he will be raised and **lifted up** and highly exalted.

**John 3:14** Just as Moses **lifted up** the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be **lifted up**, 15 that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

**John 2:23** Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people saw the signs he was performing and **believed** in his name.

31 To the Jews who had **believed** him, Jesus said, "If you **hold** to my teaching, you are really my disciples. (**Disciples hold teachings of the master**) 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you **free**." (**Truth gives freedom**) 33 They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been **slaves** of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set **free**?" (**Not physical slavery but spiritual.**)

34 Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a **slave to sin**. 35 Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a **son** belongs to it forever. (**Slaves have no eternal home - sons do. Biblical slavery was not permanent.**) 36 So if the **Son** sets you free, you will be free indeed. 37 I know that you are Abraham's **descendants**. Yet you are looking for a way to kill me, because you have no room for my **word**. 38 I am telling you what I have seen in the Father's presence, and you are doing what you have heard from **your father**." 39 "Abraham is our father," they answered. "If you were Abraham's **children**," (**Children are different from descendants**) said Jesus, "then you would do what Abraham did. 40 As it is, you are looking for a way to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. **Abraham did not do such things**. 41 You are doing the works of your own **father**."

"We are not **illegitimate** children," they protested. "The only Father we have is **God** himself." (**Are they saying they are a son of God?**)

42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your **Father**, you would **love** me, (**Blood relations naturally love one another**) for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me. 43 Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are **unable** to hear what I say. 44 You belong to your father, the **devil**, and you want to carry out your father's desires. (**They have a different world-view**) He was a murderer from the beginning, **not holding to the truth**, for there is no truth in him. (**Satan began with a lie to Eve**) When he lies, he speaks his **native** language, for he is a liar and the **father** of lies. (**He brought death to mankind**) 45 Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me! (**Liars cannot bear the truth and thus won't believe**) 46 **Can any of you prove me guilty of sin?** If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me? 47 Whoever **belongs to God** hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that **you do not belong to God**."

48 The Jews answered him, "Aren't we right in saying that you are a **Samaritan** and **demon-possessed**?" (**Galilee is near Samaria. Samaritans are: heretics, magicians, had prophets with great claims, Claim Jews were not true of Abraham**)

49 "I am not possessed by a demon," (**They call good, evil, and evil, good. Their worldview is all wrong**) said Jesus, "but I honor my Father and you **dishonor** me. (**Calling Jesus a devil is very dishonoring**) 50 I am not seeking glory for myself; but there is one who seeks it, and **he is the judge**. (**God the judge seeks to glorify Jesus**) 51 Very truly I tell you, whoever obeys my word **will never see death**." (**He is talking about Spiritual death.**)

52 At this they exclaimed, "Now we **know** that you are demon-possessed! (**This is so preposterous to them because their worldview only sees physical**) Abraham died (**Yet Abraham did not die spiritually**) and so did the prophets, yet you say that whoever obeys your word will never taste **death**. 53 Are you **greater** than our father Abraham? He **died**, and so did the prophets. **Who do you think you are?**" (**They want him to answer direct so they can stone him justifiably.**)

54 Jesus replied, "If I glorify (**Dying on a cross is not self-glorifying**) myself, (**He will not say a straight answer**) my glory means nothing. My **Father**, whom you claim as your God, is the one who **glorifies** me. (**He lets God the Father say it**) 55 Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, **I would be a liar like you**, (**He can't lie to appease them**) but I do know him and **obey** his word. (**He knows and thus obeys**) 56 Your father Abraham **rejoiced** at the thought of seeing my day; **he saw it and was glad**." (**Because Abraham is not dead.**)

57 "You are not yet **fifty** years old," they said to him, "and you have **seen Abraham**!"

**Numbers 8:25** but at the age of fifty, they must retire from their regular service and work no longer.

58 "Very truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "**before Abraham was** born, (**Jesus created the world**) **I am**!" (**He is the I AM**)

**Psalms 90:2** Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

**Exodus 3:14** God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

**Exodus 24:9** Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up 10 and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet ...

59 At this, they picked up stones to stone him, (**Such blasphemy was worth death**) but Jesus **hid himself, slipping away** from the temple grounds. (**Augustine says, "As man he flees from the stones, but woe to those from whose hearts of stone God flees!"**)

**Psalms 119:105** Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.