

Jesus, the Light of the World

*For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light.*

Psalm 36:9

3 Main Sections: A note about John 7:53-8:11 – the woman caught in adultery

- John 8: 12-30 – “I am the light of the world”
- John 8: 31-47 – “the truth will set you free”
- John 8: 48-59 – “I am”

3 “Truly, truly . . .” Statements

- ³⁴Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.”
- ⁵¹“Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.”
- ⁵⁸Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”

What is the truth about Jesus? What is its significance? What is its significance to me?

- He is the Light of the world (v. 12)
- He judges rightly (v. 10, 15, 16)
- He knows where he comes from and where he’s going (v. 17)
 - He is from above (v. 23); came from/sent by the Father (v. 16, 18, 29, 42)
 - Sent by the *true one* - “The one who sent me is true” (v. 26)
- He knows the Father (v. 55)
 - “He who sent me is with me” (v. 29)
- He does the Father’s will (v. 28)
 - Acts on the power and authority of the Father (v. 55)
 - Seeks the glory of the Father (v. 50) and is glorified by the Father (v. 18, 54)
 - Hears from the Father (v. 16, 26, 28, 40)
 - “I always do the things that are pleasing to him” (v. 29)
 - “In John, knowledge of God can’t be separated from obedience.” [D. A Carson]
- He sets free those enslaved to sin (v. 36)
- He is the true Son of God
 - “I am he” (v. 24, 28);
 - “Before Abraham was, I am” (v 58)

Who are true disciples? What is the significance of each? What is its significance to me?

- Followers of Jesus (v. 12)
- Those who “abide in my word” – remain, hold, keep (v. 31, 51)
 - Hear, understand and believe the truth about Jesus and his teachings about the Father (v. 24, 37, 43, 45, 47)
- Are of God, demonstrated by love of Jesus - (v. 42, 47)
- True children of Abraham - Those who bear likeness to Abraham (v. 37, 39)
 - Faith in action
 - Those who have a true relationship with the Father (recognize the words of God, v. 47)
 - Receives the words of Jesus (v. 33)

What are true disciples given? What is the significance of each? What is its significance to me?

- Light to walk by and the light that produces life (v. 12)
- Knowledge of the Father through knowledge of Jesus (v. 19)
- Knowledge of the truth (v. 32)
- True freedom (v. 32)

“True freedom is not the liberty to do anything we please, but the liberty to do what we ought; and it is genuine liberty because doing what we ought now pleases us.”

D.A. Carson, *“The Gospel According to John”*
- Eternal life - Will not see death (v. 51)
 - Will not die in their sins (v. 24)
 - Given son-ship to remain in the house forever (v. 35)

Am I a true disciple?

Looking over the truths about Jesus, . . .

- *do I really believe* what he says about himself?
 - Which truths bounce off or are hard to accept? Which ones am I sure of?
- *do I really want* the same kind of communion with the Father he has?
 - If yes, how badly do I want it? What am I willing to give up in order receive it?
 - If no, why not? What doesn’t ring true or seems too costly? Where else am I looking for life?

Looking over the characteristics of true disciples and what they are given, . . .

- how well do these describe me?
- how much would I like them to? How attractive to me is the life and relationship of a disciple?
- what encouragement or nudging from the Lord am I sensing today, given where I am at in my relationship with him?

Today's Scripture

⁵³ [[They went each to his own house,

John 8

¹ but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. ² Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. ³ The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst ⁴ they said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. ⁵ Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" ⁶ This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. ⁷ And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." ⁸ And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. ⁹ But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. ¹⁰ Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" ¹¹ She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."]]

I Am the Light of the World

¹² Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." ¹³ So the Pharisees said to him, "You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true." ¹⁴ Jesus answered, "Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. ¹⁵ You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. ¹⁶ Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father  who sent me. ¹⁷ In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true. ¹⁸ I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me." ¹⁹ They said to him therefore, "Where is your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also." ²⁰ These words he spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple; but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

²¹ So he said to them again, "I am going away, and you will seek me, and you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come." ²² So the Jews said, "Will he kill himself, since he says, 'Where I am going, you cannot come'?" ²³ He said to them, "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, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins." ²⁵ So they said to him, "Who are you?" Jesus said to them, "Just what I have been telling you from the beginning. ²⁶ I have much to say

about you and much to judge, but he who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him.”²⁷ They did not understand that he had been speaking to them about the Father.²⁸ So Jesus said to them, “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 authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.”²⁹ And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him.”³⁰ As he was saying these things, many believed in him.

The Truth Will Set You Free

³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”³³ They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free?’”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave^u to sin.³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.³⁷ I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you.³⁸ I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.”

³⁹ They answered him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing the works Abraham did,⁴⁰ but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did.⁴¹ You are doing the works your father did.” They said to him, “We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God.”⁴² Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me.⁴³ Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word.⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.⁴⁵ But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me.⁴⁶ Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me?⁴⁷ Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.”

Before Abraham Was, I Am

⁴⁸ The Jews answered him, “Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?”⁴⁹ Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me.⁵⁰ Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge.⁵¹ Truly,

truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.”⁵² The Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, ‘If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’”⁵³ Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?”⁵⁴ Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’”⁵⁵ But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word.⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.”⁵⁷ So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?”⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”⁵⁹ So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.