

Jesus Is God

I Am The Light Of The World, part 2

#1 - The Setting, vs. 1-11

Jesus has been teaching at the Temple in Jerusalem. He has drawn a crowd and the Bible narrative tells us that while he was teaching, the religious leaders, Scribes and Pharisees interrupt His teaching by bringing a woman caught in adultery. Now their motives are clearly stated for the reader to understand. They were doing this, not because of this woman's sin, but to catch Jesus in a conflict with the Jewish law so they could have reason to have Him arrested.

After dealing with the woman caught in adultery, Jesus went on teaching and this is where Jesus makes His second claim within the gospel of John that He is God.

#2 - The Claim, John 8:12

Once again, Jesus says, "I Am."

As you might remember from last week's message, The Jews were told by God through Moses in Exodus 3:13-15, that God's eternal name as their Creator and Sovereign God is, in the Hebrew, YHWH, which means "I Am Who I Am" or, "I Am The One Who Is." That same name of God gets rendered in the ancient Greek language, which the New Testament is written, as "Ego Eimi." The meaning is the same. Jesus was claiming to be God.

#3 - The Illustration: Jesus Is The Light Of The World, John 8:12

Key Considerations about Jesus As The Light

- He is the true light of the world. Jesus is not claiming to be "a" light, but "the" light. In other words, Jesus says about Himself, Our world has seen many imitators, but Jesus is the one, true light.
- He is the light of all the world. Jesus is not just for the Jewish people. Jesus is not just for the Gentiles, but He is the Light of the world = for everyone.
- He is to be followed. Charles Spurgeon, a great preacher of the 19th Century, put it this way: "JESUS IS THE GUIDING LIGHT FOR THE SOUL." Notice that there is an implicit directive that to benefit from the Light, one must follow the light. On a practical basis, a light doesn't do you much good, if you walk away from it and try to navigate your path while it sits in another room. The light must go before you if it is to be of benefit. In Jesus' case, we are to follow Him. He leads us, He lights our path.

- His light brings life. As we will see shortly, without Jesus we are not only left in the dark, but we also do not have spiritual life.

Let me add here, that as believers and followers of Jesus Christ, we are to reflect His light to the world. Those who lived in Israel during those years when He walked this earth, saw the Light directly. Now that He has returned to heaven, as He spoke about in this passage, His light is to shine through His followers. In another setting (Matthew 5:14-16), Jesus would tell His followers, that we are the light of the world. Like the moon reflects the light of the sun, we are to reflect Jesus in our lives. *Are you reflecting Him to those you encounter each day?*

#4 - Jesus Claim Rejected By The Religious Leaders, John 8:13, 19, 25

As Jesus asserts His claim to be God to these Jewish religious leaders, throughout their conversation, they continually reject His claim. For those here last Sunday, you will remember that Jesus first claim, I Am The Bread Of Life, was given and mostly rejected by the crowds who had gathered looking for another hand-out from Jesus. This time, Jesus makes His claim of being God, not specifically to the crowds, but to the religious leaders of His day.

#5 - The Consequence Of Rejecting Jesus As God, John 8:24

For anyone, living then in the first century to this very day, the consequence for rejecting Jesus as God has perilous, eternal consequences. For anyone to not accept Jesus personally as God, they will die in their sins.

Noted pastor and author, Rick Warren wrote in his book, The Purpose Driven Life:

“Measured against eternity, our time on earth is just a blink of an eye, but the consequences of it will last forever.”

The most significant decision you will ever make in this life determines your eternity: What will you do with Jesus?