**Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus**

**Book of John Chapter 8:12-34**

**Light, Lightening Bolts and Darkness**

Last week we covered the sham trial of a woman caught in adultery. Jesus graciously dissolves the case against her by privately writing something to the Pharisees and the scribes in the dirt and by offering the woman a chance to leave her sinful life behind. His compassion and grace were overwhelming in a society that did little to protect, value and guide women.

Tonight’s setting: The dazzling ceremony of light at the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot). The “ultimate menorah” is burning in the temple, shining light in a way that illuminates a normally dark, unlighted city.

As we continue through the events at the end of the 8-day festival in Jerusalem, keep in mind the following statement:

*There are two things that keep people from opening their hearts to Jesus; i****gnorance*** *of the facts, and* ***pride*** *that refuses to bow to the facts and adjust to them.* Ray Stedman, 1984

**John 8:13-20: The Light Exposes the Pharisees**

**Jesus boldly claims(12): I am the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

Followers of Jesus will not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ but will walk in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

It is easier to understand the need for light when we think about experiences in the dark or in blindness. The remainder of Chapter 8 and the next chapter will reveal the darkness of the heart and the process of coming to the light of Jesus.

What does Jesus expose confidently about Himself:

What does Jesus expose about the Pharisees and their argument against him? (14b, 15, 19)

Pharisee’s reaction:

Actions speak louder than words! Their reaction exposes:

**John 8 21-30 The Light Exposes Their Path and Their Destination**

Announcing his ascension to heaven triggers a discussion of the opposite destination, going to hell, an eternal separation from all that is beautiful and the removal of God from our lives.

**Jesus’ boldly claims:(21) I am \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

Those don’t follow Jesus will not\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and will not be able to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

You cannot come!

Their sarcastic response: (22)

This response exposes their ignorance of their destination: Suicide, they thought went to the deepest place in hell, where there was a special torment reserved for them.

They think Jesus is going to\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and they certainly won’t be going to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with him.

Jesus confidently exposes where he is going: (23)

Jesus urgently exposes where a world without him is going: (24) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Why?

Startled & sobered, they ask & reveal their ignorance:(25)

Jesus answers: (25)

What is the source of Jesus' confidence? (26, 28, 29)

When will they no longer be blind to who he is? (28)

The crowd’s reaction: (30)

**John 8:31-34 The Light Exposes Spiritual Ancestry-Part 1**

Jesus is teaching us the pathway out of our lies, a chance to turn around (repentance), and start a new life just as he offered to the Samaritan woman, the adulterous woman, and anyone who would believe in Him.

The true pathway to freedom (31-32):

1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What is freedom? (34)

Next week, we will look at what lies blinded these people from becoming disciples of Jesus.

Truth is the nature of things as they really are. When we see things as they really are, we know what is good, true and permanent. Our world and our hearts are often full of lies. If we want to live in truth, we must ask ourselves what lies are we slaves to—what are the hang-ups, worries, fears, insecurities, anger, guilt that enslave me? Paraphrased excerpts from Ray Stedman, 1984.

**What do we learn about Jesus?**

**How do we live differently?**

How do we get a foundation to believe in Jesus?

How do we look at our future beyond this earth?