



Who is Jesus? The Gospel of John – Week 22

Preacher – Sandy Mason | Text – John 8:12-30

Summary:

In this passage, Jesus again defends his ministry against the grumblings and challenges from the Jewish religious establishment. Coming on the heels of the story of the woman caught in adultery, where Jesus revealed the hollowness of the crowds' adherence to the Law and his own gracious treatment of sinners, his testimony about himself in this passage is especially trenchant. Jesus claims to be the "light of the world," the one who can save those who believe. And, as usual, the clearer and stronger Jesus' claims, the sharper the divide between those who believe (v.30) and those who reject him (v. 13).

Discussion:

1. What was the most important take-away for you from this week's message?
2. What do you make of Jesus' central claim in this passage ("I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.")? What was he telling the Pharisees?
3. **Application:** What does it look like to 'walk in darkness'? What does it look like to 'have the light of life'? How have you experienced both of these in your own life?

4. The Pharisees rejected Jesus' testimony about himself, arguing that he had no 'corroborating witnesses' to verify what he said. How would you paraphrase Jesus' response in vv. 14-18? How did he turn the tables on them?

5. What was Jesus saying when he told them "If you knew me, you would know my Father also" in v. 19. What about that statement may have caused them to want to arrest him (v. 20)?

6. The word for 'sin' in v. 21 is singular – Jesus was talking most likely about a specific sin. What do you think he was referring to? Defend your answer from the text.

7. **Application:** How does the sin of unbelief (of missing/rejecting Jesus) appear in the life of a Christian? How does this sin appear in your life? How can you fight against unbelief day by day?

8. The crowds ask Jesus, "Who are you?" (v. 25). How are they asking? To truly understand Jesus' identity, or to mock and deride him? This recalls v. 15, where Jesus calls out the Pharisees for having judged him according to their own human standards. What was the difference between the Pharisees' judgment on Jesus and his judgment concerning them (v. 15-16; v. 26)?

9. What does Jesus reveal about his relationship with the Father in vv. 28-29? What about these words caused many to believe in him? **Application:** How do these words strengthen your own faith?

10. How would you 'title' this section? In other words, how would you restate the main purpose John had (as the author) in writing this passage?