

That You May Believe and Have Life: A Study in John

John 7-8: The Light of the World

Review

1. Who is John? (John 21:24, Mark 5:37, 9:2, 12:33, John 13:23, 19:26, 20:2, 21:7)
2. Why did John write the Gospel of John?
3. How does this Gospel differ from the other 3?
4. What is the goal of this study?

Who is Jesus?

John 7:1 After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He would not go about in Judea, because the Jews¹ were seeking to kill him.² Now the Jews' Feast of Booths was at hand.³ So his brothers¹ said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea, that your disciples also may see the works you are doing."⁴ For no one works in secret if he seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, show yourself to the world."⁵ For not even his brothers believed in him.

1. From the brothers' statement to Jesus, encouraging him to go to Judea, one would think that they were very supportive believers. But John sees their encouragement as proof positive that they did not believe. Why?
2. Who are the equivalent to the brothers in our day, those who seem to claim Christ and even believe they are working for the good of the kingdom, but do not know him?

By Whose Authority?

John 7¹⁵ The Jews therefore marveled, saying, "How is it that this man has learning, when he has never studied?"¹⁶ So Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me."¹⁷ If anyone's will is to do God's¹ will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority.¹⁸ The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory, but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood.....

John 8:12 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 Father¹ who sent me.¹⁷ In your Law it is written that the testimony of two men 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."

3. In both John 7 and 8, the Pharisees attempt to accuse Christ of false teaching by appealing to his lack of education and authority. What is his response?
4. How does this relate to the self attesting nature of Scripture? How can we learn how we might respond from Christ's response?

1 Corinthians 2:14 *The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.*

Light and Truth

John 8³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in 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 commits sin is a slave¹ 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 what 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 what 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 has nothing to do with 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."

5. What does it mean to be the light of the world? (8:12) What is ironic about this phrase being stated to the Pharisees?

I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen. Not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else. -CS Lewis

6. In what ways does believing in Jesus bring illumination and understanding into the world?
7. How does this relate to v. 31?
8. How is this quote often misunderstood or taken out of context?
9. What does it really mean?

Greater than Abraham

John 8⁴⁸ 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.

10. Why do the Jews take such offense at Christ's claim about never seeing death? Why do they pick up stones?
11. What proof is this that the "I am" statements were a claim to deity?