

JOHN 8:12-20
LIGHT AND DARKNESS!

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to John chapter 8 as we continue our in-depth study of the Gospel of John.

What we will be looking at this morning is born out of what transpired as this chapter opened up, what we looked at last time.

As this chapter opened up, we see that Jesus is in the Court of the Women, in the Temple, teaching.

And as He is teaching these religious leaders bring this woman who was caught in the act of adultery.

And the Jewish religious leaders were trying to catch Jesus and discredit Him before the people. It was a set-up. They were watching and interestingly enough, they did not bring the man! That is why I feel this is just a set-up and this woman was caught in the act of adultery!

So as this woman who was caught in the act of adultery is before Jesus , they ask Jesus what should be done with her. You see, Moses said that she should be stoned to death and thus, is Jesus going to follow what Moses said or will He reject what Moses said?

They knew the compassion Jesus had for people and I truly believe they thought Jesus would let her go, not stone her to death.

If He did that the people might come against Him for negating the Law of Moses.

Again, this was all done to catch Jesus as John 8:6 tells us, “**This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. . .**”

But Jesus did not answer them yet. He stooped down and began writing on the ground and I believe He was writing not only the sin of adultery on the ground, but also many other sins.

But none of the Jewish religious leaders were moved by this and they kept on asking Him what He was going to do with this woman.

Then Jesus stood up and said to them, “**He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.**” John 8:7.

Again, none of these Jewish religious leaders were convicted by their own sin and so Jesus stooped down again and began writing on the ground. And I believe, next to not only the sin of adultery but the other sins, He began to write the names of these Jewish religious leaders and now, instead of repenting of their sins, they began to walk away, the oldest to the youngest.

In the end, none of the Jewish religious leaders remained, it was only Jesus and this woman.

And Jesus asks this woman where they are and she tells Jesus that they are gone, there is no one left to accuse her. And Jesus tells her, “**. . . ‘Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.’**” John 8:11.

Now that Jesus has dealt with that, He goes back to teaching.

Also, keep in mind that the Feast of Tabernacles is over and during this feast they would light many lamps in the Court of the Women. This is the area that Jesus was teaching in. In John 8:20 it is spoken of the treasury, and that is where it was located, in the Court of the Women in the Temple area.

Now, during the Feast of Tabernacles these lamps illuminated the Temple area and it reminded them of the Shekinah glory that was present in the Tabernacle (Exodus 40:34) and in the Temple (II Chronicles 7:1).

That is what Jesus is going to be teaching on here, that He is the light of the world. And this is the second ***I AM*** statement that Jesus will make in the Gospel of John. And we will deal with that as we get into our study this morning.

I have called our study this morning – ***LIGHT AND DARKNESS!***

Let me ask you a question.

What is darkness?

Now you may have many answers to that question but there really is only one answer and it is very simple.

Darkness is the absence of light!

Now, let me ask you another question.

Why is this world so dark?

Because there is an absence of light, and I am speaking of the light of God shining! You see, apart from the light of God, there is darkness spiritually, morally, it affects every aspect of our lives just like light does.

Let me illustrate it like this. We are told,

Imagine a scenario in which you are lost in a forest during a cloudy night where the moon cannot give you its light. You don't have your smartphone to be used as a flashlight.

It is so dark that you cannot see the hand in front of your face. There is simply no light to be found.

As you are wandering through the dark forest, you have now traveled so far that you have forgotten which direction you have come from.

Suddenly off in the distance appears a man making his way through the forest with his flashlight.

Knowing that he may be able to help, you carefully make your way to him. Upon meeting the man with the flashlight he instructs you that he is very familiar with the forest and that he is able to help you navigate out of the forest back to your house. All that you need to do is follow him as he shines his light for you to see.

The question I want to ask you is - will you follow this man who is able to give you light, or will you continue to walk in the dark though you know that the man with the light could lead you home?

- Source Unknown

That is the point we are going to be looking at this morning, Jesus being the light of the world and are we willing to follow Him or continue to walk in darkness doing our own thing? It is a choice, and we will see that these Jewish religious leaders don't want to come to the light, but they want to continue walking in darkness.

I have broken these verses we will be looking at this morning into four main points and they are,

THE DECLARATION – JOHN 8:12

THE REBUKE – JOHN 8:13

THE EVIDENCE – JOHN 8:14-18

THE CONFLICT – JOHN 8:19-20

So with that as our introduction, let's begin reading in John chapter 8 beginning in verse 12 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word and look at this topic – ***LIGHT AND DARKNESS!***

JOHN 8**VERSE 12**

I have talked about how dark this world is today and I don't think anyone would disagree with that.

Now, in saying that, let me ask you this question. What does man need most in this world today?

Keep in mind that people are walking in darkness and that is a dangerous thing to do.

Ray Stedman shows how true it is, that being in darkness can be very dangerous. He wrote,

Years ago, when I was driving from Dallas to Southern California, I picked up a couple of young hitchhikers. As we were driving past the entrance to the Grand Canyon, I asked them if they had ever seen the canyon. They said, "No," so we decided to spend the night there.

It was late at night and pitch black when we turned off the road. We could not see a thing, but we found what seemed to be an open space and crawled into our sleeping bags.

When I awoke in the morning the sun was up. I stretched and threw out my arms, only to find that my left arm dropped down in the void!

In the darkness of the dead of the night we had actually made our bed on the edge of a cliff that dropped into the Grand Canyon! If we had gone two steps further we would have fallen over the edge.

I gave grateful thanks for the light that morning. That is what the light is for.

- bit.ly/3LkRDuH

Exactly. Man is walking in darkness, and he does not know where he is going. Thus, man needs the light of God to show him where to go and where not to go. To point out the dangers that are out there.

And just like today, a world that is in darkness, it was also in darkness during the time of Jesus as well.

And Jesus declares Himself, here in John 8:12, to be Almighty God as He says “**I Am.**” And don’t miss the point that Jesus is making here, the Jewish religious leaders did not miss it.

You see, when Jesus said, “**I Am**” it is *EGO EIMI* in the Greek and what He was saying is that He is the voice from the burning bush from Exodus chapter 3! In other words, He is Almighty God as I have said.

And what we see here is that Jesus declares that He is not only the God who brought light into the world but that same God who created all things came to earth as *spiritual* Light to fight against the spiritual darkness of the devil and his demons, to free man from the bondage of sin that he is in.

And to answer the question I asked you a few minutes ago about what man needs today is just what they needed in Jesus’ day.

Man needs light to see where they are going and thus, Jesus tells the Jewish religious leaders, the people of His day and us, that – ***I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!***

Keep in mind what Jewish feast was just completed – ***THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES!***

And light was an important part of that feast. One writer put it like this. He wrote, *“It was the custom during the first night, if not during every night, of the feast of tabernacles, to light up two large golden chandeliers in the court of the women, the light of which illuminated all Jerusalem. All that night they held a festal dance by the light.”* (Alford)

Now I want you to think about this because what Jesus declared to them is very significant.

Keep in mind that the Shekinah glory was the glory of God, His presence. We see the glory of God, the Shekinah glory fill the Tabernacle in the wilderness and then, later on in the Temple, as I have said.

But, as the children of Israel rebelled against God, and, because of that they were going into captivity. And it is during this time that we see the Shekinah glory depart from the Temple. We see this in Ezekiel 10:18 and 11:23 as we are told, **“Then the glory of the LORD departed from the threshold of the temple and stood over the cherubim. . . . And the glory of the LORD went up from the midst of the city and stood on the mountain, which is on the east side of the city.”**

Can you imagine God departing! And what is left is darkness. But now, after several hundred years, the glory has returned in the person of Jesus Christ!

That is what John told us in John 1:14, **“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”**

The Shekinah glory veiled in a body of flesh and yet some of that glory was seen by His Disciples and on the Mount of Transfiguration we see Jesus in all of His glory. God became flesh and dwelt among us in the Incarnation!

Here is the problem. Many would rather walk in the darkness so they can do as they please, they can sin as they want and, in the end, it is a deadly walk!

But, if we follow after Him, we will not walk in darkness for there is no darkness in Him at all, only light! He will lead us to where we need to go, what we are to do.

It is as John said in I John 1:5-7, **“This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”**

So this is a powerful – *DECLARATION!*

That God has come to the earth to light the way for man to follow after Him, they don't need to walk in darkness any longer!

But make no mistake about it, what we see in the world today and ever since Adam sinned, is the battle between – *LIGHT AND DARKNESS!*

Let me state this right up front so there is no confusion. The darkness has nothing to do with the light or vice versa.

Why is that?

Because light and darkness do not mix.

Again, let's think this through.

What happens when you go into a room that is completely dark and you turn on a small light?

The darkness disappears!

Let me change that around a little.

What happens in a room filled with light and you add darkness?

The darkness disappears because light dispels the darkness!

Great, but what does that mean to me?

Please, please understand that darkness cannot stand before light!

And what I want you to glean from this is that deception, lies cannot stand before the truth of God, the light of God!

Think about it, the light of God's Word will dispel the darkness of the false teaching, the lies, the doctrines of demons that are flooding into the church today!

So if you are an enemy and you want to get your enemies to believe what is not true, what do you do?

You feed them wrong information and you take away the books that would expose the lies you are bringing forth.

That is exactly what Satan has done so many times today. He gets people, churches, pastors, leaders to negate or water down the Word of God and thus, as false teaching comes in, there is no light to dispel that darkness!

Let me show you the importance of looking out and evaluating things according to a guidebook, and for us, it is the Bible, just the Bible, nothing more and nothing less!

We are told,

The Navy has a *Lookout Training Handbook*. The utter and absolute necessity of having lookouts – even with today's sophisticated computer technology – is stressed in the handbook's introduction. It reads:

In the United States, with its nuclear-powered warships, computerized guidance systems, and the most accurate search radars of the world, you, the lookout, play a critical role in safe ships operations.

Your trained human eye is far superior to the most sophisticated equipment. As a lookout, you are the eyes and ears of the ship, and your alertness and skill ensures the safety of the ship.

In the naval service there is probably no Rule of the Road more conscientiously observed than Rule 5 of the *Navigation Rules*, Commandant Instruction M16672.2, which states:

“Every vessel shall at all times maintain a proper look-out by sight and sound as well as by all available means appropriate in the prevailing circumstances and conditions so as to make a full appraisal of the situation and of the risk of collision.”

When the rescue ship *Carpathia* headed into the dangerous ice field to rescue the *Titanic* survivors adrift in lifeboats, Captain Arthur Rostron doubled his lookouts. As today’s church moves into an even more dangerous future, it seems to have no lookouts at all.

Titanic lookout George Symons, who was on duty with Archie Jewell just prior to Frederick Fleet and Reginald Lee’s infamous last shift, said he could “smell” ice as early as 9 p.m. – more than two and a half hours before the *Titanic* struck the iceberg. At the British Inquiry, he said, “As a rule you can smell the ice before you get to it.”

- Warren B. Smith, *The Titanic and Today’s Church – A Tale of Two Shipwrecks*, pp. 147-148

What a sad story because there were many warnings that were all ignored, and I see that in the church today.

The only solution to this problem in the church today is getting back to the light of the world so we can see where we are going, getting back to the Word of God!

I want to take a few minutes and drive this point home by looking at what the Scriptures have to say about light and darkness. And when I speak of light I am speaking of the things of God, what is true, what is pure, what is good and-so-on.

When I speak of darkness, I am speaking of things that are evil, sinful, destructive, deadly and-so-on.

First of all, in Isaiah 5:20 we are told, **“Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!”**

Here is a warning from God and when God says **“Woe”** you better pay attention. If you are bringing in false teaching, if you are leading people away from the truths of God found in the Word of God, God will hold you accountable.

And folks, this is exactly what Satan does. He gets people to believe that evil is good and good is evil. He loves people to remain in darkness so they can't see where they are going. And what he brings is bitter and yet, look at how people think it is sweet. It is not, it is deadly!

So what can we do about this? Listen to what we are told in Psalm 119:105, **“Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.”**

Notice that God's Word is not darkness, it does not lead you into darkness, there is no darkness in it. God's Word is a lamp and a light to our lives and how important that is especially in the dark days we are living in.

Imagine being blind and not knowing where you are going, what is the right way and what is the wrong way to go.

That is how it is for people who have rejected God and His Word, they are in spiritual darkness, and they are groping for anything and everything, but it remains darkness to them. God's Word is there to direct our lives, to keep us on the right path, it is truth! May we read, listen and obey!

In Psalm 43:3 we are told, **“Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me; Let them bring me to Your holy hill And to Your tabernacle.”**

David is asking God to send his light that he may gain understanding; he may see the truth of God that is found in His Word.

That is what we read here as Jesus said, **“Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.’”** John 8:12.

It is not that the light is not there, we just don't always agree with what God has said and that is what gets us in trouble. That is what gets us off course and in a mess.

His Word is there for us to follow if we want but to negate it causes us to walk in darkness and that is never good!

In II Peter 1:19-21 we are told, **“And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”**

For those that doubt God's Word, Peter says that what he saw with his own eyes, Jesus in all of His glory on the Mount of Transfiguration, was wonderful but it does not compare to the Word of God!

In other words, God's Word is more sure, it can be trusted more than what Peter saw with his own eyes on Mount Hermon in Caesarea Philippi, the Transfiguration!

Thus, experiences will come and go but God's Word will last forever. Experiences may pump us up for a time, but God's Word will transform our lives!

And that phrase "**dark place**" in the Greek is a reference to "*the murky blackness of the fallen world.*"

Make no mistake about it, it is a darkness of spiritual deception that can only be penetrated by the light of God's truth. And it is getting darker and darker out there, more deception than ever before. Thus, **TURN ON THE LIGHTS!**

With all the garbage that is out in this world, with all the darkness that seems to permeate this world, God's Word is a light that shines in our hearts first and then through us to touch the lives of others, to bring light to this dark world.

That means we need to cling to God's Word, hold onto it, apply it to our lives until Jesus returns and He will! God's Word will guide us even when it is pitch black out because the light dispels the darkness!

And we can go on, but I want to share one more with you to show you how God's Word not only lights our path, but now that we have the light of God, we are to walk accordingly.

In Ephesians 5:8 we are told, "**For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.**"

Paul's point is this. We are to walk in purity as God has called us to walk!

One writer put it like this, *“This indicates a complete change of being. Christians are so penetrated [and saturated with the presence of God and His light/truth] that they could be described not simply as being enlightened but now having become light themselves.”* (Source Unknown)

Let me ask you this, and I know you know the answer because we have talked about his already. *“What happens when you turn the lights on in a room?”*

It expels the darkness!

What’s my point?

It is this.

As we enter a room, as we are around people, their sins are exposed, brought to light with the hope that they would see their sin, repent and receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Jesus said in Matthew 5:14-16, **“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”**

We are to radiate the love of Christ in this dark world and as we do, our Father in heaven is glorified!

You see, ***WE ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD*** and the reason we are is because Jesus is in us, and it is His light that radiates from our lives!

But, if we allow darkness into our life, then people will not see Jesus!

Remember what Paul said in Romans 13:12-14, **“The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.”**

May we do that!

Think of it like this, *“When we are living in obedience to God, that fact in itself will be a testimony against wrong. When those around us see us helping rather than exploiting, hear us talking with purity instead of profanity, and observe us speaking truthfully rather than deceitfully, our example will itself be a rebuke of selfishness, unwholesome talk, and falsehood. Simply refusing to participate in a dishonest business or social practice will sometimes be such a strong rebuke that it costs us our job or a friendship. Dishonesty is terribly uncomfortable in the presence of honesty, even when there is no verbal or other direct opposition.”* (Source Unknown)

May remember that in these dark days we are living in – ***WE ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD*** only because of Jesus, who said – ***I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!***

Thus, if you don't want to walk in darkness, follow Jesus!

Now how will they receive these words of Jesus?

Let's read on and see!

VERSE 13

Here we see – ***THE REBUKE*** by these Jewish religious leaders against Jesus.

I think what these Jewish religious leaders were doing here is saying that God had established in His Law that you needed two witnesses to confirm what you are saying, and you just could not be your own witness.

In Deuteronomy 19:15 we are told, **“One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established.”**

Jesus picked up on that in John 8:17, **“It is also written in your law that the testimony of two men is true.”**

Thus, I think that that is what they are implying here, that Jesus is testifying of Himself and that will not hold up in a court of law. Since Jesus was the only one testifying on His behalf, they claimed His testimony was not enough to prove His case and establish His claim of deity.

And I will deal with this more in a few minutes because there were witnesses, more than one, that testified who Jesus is. Jesus already shared with them back in John chapter 5, but again, they are not interested in the truth! And as we read on, we will see Jesus give two powerful witnesses to who He is.

But look at what we have seen. Into this sin darkened world Jesus Christ came and He claimed to be the light of the world.

But now, these Jewish religious leaders could not accept that. They knew exactly what He was saying, and they refused to see the light because they were blind, a self-inflicted blindness!

And if you think about it, does a seeing man need to prove the light?

Of course not, he just sees it.

But for these Jewish religious leaders, according to their rabbinical tradition, they rejected self-testimony. Therefore, they rejected what Jesus was saying and they remained in the dark because they refused to see!

And please keep in mind that they have encountered Jesus many times and rejected what He was saying.

As I have said, back in John chapter 5 we saw the four-fold witness that Jesus gave them and rejected by them.

We saw the witness of John the Baptist, the witness of His works, the witness of the Father, and the witness of the Word of God.

When you refuse to see, it doesn't matter how much light is before you, you still reject it, just as they did.

Listen to what Ironside wrote regarding what was taking place here,

Do you want to be delivered from the darkness? Do you want to know the light? Then go to Him, or you will never find it.

Sometime ago a lady wrote me and she said, "I have been for years seeking after light. I am a searcher after truth, and if you can help me I will be glad."

She said, "I have investigated Theosophy, Spiritism, New Thought, and other cults. I have studied all kinds of religions, and I am in the dark still."

I wrote her and said, "My dear friend, you have been looking down blind alleys for years. Come back to your Bible, read the gospel of John, and see the wonderful revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ. In Him you will find all your questions answered. Your soul will be satisfied when you receive Him as your Savior."

We do not need all these other things. . . .

Oh, that is the answer to all your spiritual problems and perplexities: Jesus the Light of the world, the divine Savior of sinners. But when men are determined to reject the truth of God and their hearts are filled with self-righteousness, they will go to any length to discredit the messenger. There is nothing more blinding than religious prejudice.

- Henry Ironside, John 8:12-20

That truly is the problem. When people have made up their mind it doesn't matter what you tell them, they will not believe.

And please understand that we, as Christians, are not believing some empty or blind faith or as some like to say, ***"To be a Christian you have to turn off your brain!"***

What that tells me is that they have to believe that because if they don't, they might be wrong. So they believe we are stupid for believing God created the heavens and the earth in six literal days and rested on the seventh.

The other side of the argument is that there is no God, and everything came into existence from nothing and evolved from nothing to everything we see today!

That is just plain darkness because the evidence is overwhelming that life cannot come from non-life apart from God!

Thus, when you put the light of God's Word into the equation it shows us that God has created all life and when you look at the evidence with your eyes you see that what God has said in His Word is verified by what we see!

For these Jewish religious leaders, they refused to come to the light even though what they saw before them, Jesus, is the light of the world! You see, what the Old Testament prophets spoke about the Messiah was manifested in Jesus. No one through history did what Jesus did.

The timeframe for the coming of the Messiah was at hand but they did not want to lose their position with Rome, so they rejected it!

And the point is this. If you don't want to see the light you won't, your eyes are closed to the truth and you will remain in darkness until you open your eyes and see the light of the world, you see Jesus!

This illustrates is perfectly for us. We are told,

In his book, *An Anthropologist on Mars*, neurologist Oliver Sacks tells about Virgil, a man who had been blind from early childhood.

When he was 50, Virgil underwent surgery and was given the gift of sight. But as he and Dr. Sacks found out, having the physical capacity for sight is not the same as seeing.

Virgil's first experiences with sight were confusing. He was able to make out colors and movements, but arranging them into a coherent picture was more difficult.

Over time he learned to identify various objects, but his habits - his behaviors - were still those of a blind man.

Dr. Sacks asserts, "One must die as a blind person to be born again as a seeing person. It is the interim, the limbo . . . that is so terrible."

To truly see Jesus and his truth means more than observing what he did or said, it means a change of identity.

- Terry Seufferlein Norman, Oklahoma

That is where these Jewish religious leaders were at and where many people are today. They believe in God, but they refuse to see the light of the world, they refuse to see the Jesus of the Bible. They have made up a God according to their own imagination and they remain blind.

The wonderful thing about our Lord, one of the many, many wonderful things about our Lord, is He does not give up on us and He is not going to give up on them. He is going to give them more information or what I have called these verses – ***THE EVIDENCE!***

So let's read on and see what Jesus tells these men who were walking in darkness.

VERSES 14-18

Here we see Jesus speak up and He says that He can testify of Himself because He knows where He came from, He has an eternal perspective.

Jesus can testify of Himself because He judges righteously.

And lastly, Jesus can testify of Himself because the Father is in perfect agreement with Him.

And please understand that Jesus would agree that a man's testimony regarding himself could not be established as true, under normal circumstances.

But Jesus could because He is God and God can't lie, He only speaks the truth!

Now I guess you can say that anyone can claim anything and maybe Jesus is not God and thus, that is why they were not believing Him!

As I have said, the evidence of who Jesus is was overwhelming, so this was not just talk, the Scriptures backed up what He was saying!

As one writer put it regarding what these Jewish religious leaders were doing, *“They had constituted themselves His judges, and they decided against Him, because ‘according to the flesh’ He was born in Galilee.”* (Dods)

And think about it like this, *“He must give witness about Himself: no one else is qualified to give witness about His nature and about His essential work.”* (Trench)

We can sum this up like this. Jesus is basically telling these Jewish religious leaders, *“Men, I don’t need to prove to you who I am. You see, I know who I am, and I know where I come from. I am Almighty God who has come in the flesh. I came from God the Father, and I will be returning to Him in heaven when the work that I came to do is finished. That is the work of redemption is finished!”*

But, for the Pharisees, they could not say *“Yes”* to any of these. And in the end, it is not only Jesus who testifies of Himself, but the Father also testifies of Him, as we shall see.

It is as Jesus said in John 5:23, **“that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.”**

Now let me deal with this because it can be a little confusing. In John 8:15 Jesus said, **“You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one.”**

And yet, remember what we read in John 5:22, **“For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son.”**

Make no mistake about it, the Pharisees were those who judged everyone and you might say that when they judged, they *“judged a book by its cover!”* And what I mean by that, and I think you see it, is that they judged according to outward appearances, by worldly standards! Not only that, but they had come up with so many rules and regulations that they made up and that is how they judged people as well.

And, like today, they placed their man-made rules and regulations, their traditions higher than the Law of God, higher than the Word of God!

Because of that they were not able to judge others and even Jesus because they were blind to the truths of God and what they saw was right was wrong!

Remember the rebuke that Jesus gave to the Jewish religious leaders back in John 7:24, it is what is being spoken of here in John 8. We are told, **“Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.”**

But what about Jesus not judging anyone. How does that fit in when Jesus said that the Father has entrusted Him to judge?

Let me share with you John 3:16-17 and then I will show you what I think is being said. We are told, **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”**

The first time, the first coming of Jesus He did not come to condemn us. Why?

Because we are already condemned. We did not need more condemnation; we needed salvation and God sent forth His Son to save man from His sin!

He is coming again, His second coming to judge the wicked and that time seems to be getting very close! And after the wicked are judged, the unbelievers, He will establish His Kingdom on this earth and rule and reign for one-thousand years!

For these Jewish religious leaders, the testimony of Jesus should have been enough, His life was a witness that He was the One.

But they rejected that and to accommodate these religious leaders, Jesus gave them another witness that testifies who He is, the Father!

As Tasker wrote, *“If the Jews then demand two witnesses in order to satisfy the Jewish law of evidence, those two witnesses exist; they are Jesus and His Father.”*

And this witness of the Father is seen at the baptism of Jesus in Matthew 3:17 when the Father spoke and said, **“This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.”**

I like the way that Clarke expounded on this. He wrote, *“Our Lord speaks here exactly in the character of an ambassador. Such a person does not bring a second with him to vouch his truth; his credentials from his king ascertain his character: he represents the king’s person. So our Lord represents the Father as bearing witness with him.”*

There are the two witnesses pointing to the fact that Jesus is the Messiah.

And listen to what Paul had to say in Hebrews 1:8-9. Now I know, some will say that this is the New Testament, and it was not written yet, so how could they know this. Very true. But understand that Paul is quoting out of Psalm 45 as well as Deuteronomy 33. So this is in their Scriptures and it testified that God was going to become flesh and dwell among us.

Paul wrote, **“But to the Son He says: ‘Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.’”**

God the Father is speaking of Jesus as God! The Father calls the Son – ***GOD!*** So that is in the Old Testament, but they refused to see because they were blinded to the truths of God found in the Word of God. And they were blinded because they refused to see!

How will these religious leaders respond now?

That is our next point – ***THE CONFLICT!***

Look at what we are told.

VERSES 19-20

As we read these words of these Pharisees, these Jewish religious leaders, we might not think much of it. They said to Jesus, “**Where is Your Father?**”

Please understand that these words by the Jewish religious leaders were meant as an insult. They were telling Jesus to show them His father, believing He was born out of fornication, out of wedlock, and He doesn't even know who His father really is!

Now do you understand the hatred they had towards Jesus! And, according to Tenney, *“In the East, to question a man's paternity is definite slur on his legitimacy.”*

One writer put it like this. He wrote, *“In referring to Jesus' parentage, the Pharisees thought they had some special ‘intelligence’ or scandal on Him. They must have thought, ‘Watch how He reacts when we reveal what we know about Him.’ But Jesus made it clear that they did not know anything about Him, or His Father.”*

As you read through the Gospels this was something that the Jewish religious leaders kept trying to do, discredit Jesus before the people so they would not follow Him. But, in the end, it was the Jewish religious leaders that were silenced and truly, Jesus nails them here.

I am sure at this point the religious leaders thought they had Jesus on this one, but Jesus responds by saying they had no clue about Him or His Father.

Keep in mind that they prided themselves in regard to their knowledge of God. They said that they loved Father God.

And what Jesus is doing is telling them that they know nothing, they have no knowledge of the Father because they have rejected Him!

Remember in John chapter 7 as they are arguing about where Jesus was from. Some said that they knew where Jesus was from but when the Christ comes, no one would know where He was from. And yet the Scriptures tell us where the Messiah was to come from.

And it is out of that we read in John 7:28, **“Then Jesus cried out, as He taught in the temple, saying, ‘You both know Me, and you know where I am from; and I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know. But I know Him, for I am from Him, and He sent Me.’”**

In other words, they claimed to know God the Father, but Jesus is telling them that they know nothing of God the Father. Why did they not know God the Father?

In John 5:20-23 we are told, **“For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel. For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will. For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.”**

Did you see that? If you reject the Son, if you don’t honor the Son, if you don’t honor Jesus, then you are not honoring the Father, but you are rejecting what the Father has done, sent His Son to save us from our sins!

So Jesus is hitting them hard and heavy here, He is not backing down and thus, - ***THE CONFLICT*** between Jesus and these Jewish religious leaders!

Remember what we are told in John 14:8-9, **“Philip said to Him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, “Show us the Father?””**

Again, for these Jewish religious leaders, they didn’t know the Father because they didn’t know, they rejected Jesus!

Now in verse 20 we are told where Jesus was teaching and where these religious leaders were coming after Jesus, it was in the *Court of the Women*, where the treasury was located.

This is the place where the 13 trumpet-shaped brass offering containers were kept and this was located in the *Court of the Women*, as I have said, in the Temple.

And you can tell that things were heating up because John tells us that no one laid a hand on Jesus because His time had not yet come.

That tells me that these Jewish religious leaders wanted to lay hands on Jesus but they were restrained at this time!

As I begin to rap this study up, listen to what Ray Stedman had to say as he sums this up for us. He wrote,

One of the amazing things about this story is that, although these men were claiming to know God, they really did not know him.

I find this is the problem with many people today. They say they know God, but the god they are talking about is a god of their own imagination. They are merely projecting an idea about God that is not real; consequently they do not know God at all. Neither do they worship God; they are worshipping a figment of their imagination.

I ran across a quote from Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones that speaks to this:

Their god is something which they created themselves, a being who is always prepared to oblige and excuse them. They do not worship him with awe and respect, indeed they do not worship him at all. They reveal that their so-called god is no god at all in their talk. For they are forever saying that “they simply cannot believe that God will punish the unrepentant sinner to all eternity, and this and that.” They cannot believe that God will do so, therefore, they draw the conclusion that God does not and will not. In other words, God does what they believe he ought to do or not do. What a false and blasphemous conception of God! How utterly untrue and unworthy! Such is the new paganism of today.

That is why many people do not come to the light: Their willful ignorance blinds their hearts. They do not know Jesus, and they do not know God. Then John turns to the second reason why men and women remain in darkness, and that is because of their pride.

- bit.ly/3LkRDuH

For us as Christians, we have the light of God in our lives and thus, we should walk accordingly. But for many Christians, they ignore the light of God and follow after feelings, what they think is right and, in the end, it will bring disaster upon them.

For those that don't know the Lord, they don't even realize that they are walking in darkness because they surround themselves with others that are walking in darkness.

The problem comes when the light is turned on and exposes their darkness and they don't like it and they try to put it out, they try to extinguish it. They fight against Christians who are walking in the light.

And for some, when the light of God shines upon their hearts, they see their sin and they repent and come to saving faith.

The light is there, are you willing to see and obey!

Let me close with this,

On November 30, 1991 fierce winds from a freakish dust storm triggered a massive freeway pileup along Interstate 5 near Coalinga, California.

At least 14 people died and dozens more were injured as topsoil whipped by 50 mile-per-hour winds reduced visibility to zero.

The afternoon holocaust left a three-mile trail of twisted and burning vehicles, some stacked on top of one another 100 yards off the side of the freeway.

Unable to see their way, dozens of motorists drove blindly ahead into disaster.

- Today in the Word, August 16, 1992

Yes, there is this battle of **LIGHT AND DARKNESS!**

But to dispel the darkness all we need to do is to turn on the light, the light of Jesus that is in our lives. We need to be in the Word of God that sheds light for us so that we may walk accordingly!

Remember what Jesus said – **I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. HE WHO FOLLOWS ME SHALL NOT WALK IN DARKNESS, BUT HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE!**