



WEEK NINE HANDOUT – The Son As Light and Truth

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Key Verse: *So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him,  
“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth,  
and the truth will set you free.” – John 8:31-32 ESV*

- **Living Water** – John 7:37-44

*Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone **thirsts**, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of **living water**.’”*  
– John 7:37-38 ESV

- Jesus offers Himself as the source of living water
- But this is not the first time He has done so

*Jesus answered her, “If you knew **the gift of God**, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you **living water**.”* – John 4:10 ESV

- It is reminiscent of His sermon on the mount

*“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”*  
– Matthew 5:6 ESV

- Jesus was speaking of the Spirit
  - We fail to grasp the prophetic nature of Jesus’ words
  - But His Jewish audience would have made the connection

Joel 2:28-32

*“And it shall come to pass afterward,  
that **I will pour out my Spirit** on all flesh;*

*your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
 your old men shall dream dreams,  
 and your young men shall see visions.  
 Even on the male and female servants  
 in those days **I will pour out my Spirit.***

*“And **I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth**, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And it shall come to pass that **everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.***

- And all of would have followed something else...

*You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,  
 and praise the name of the Lord your God,  
 who has dealt wondrously with you.  
 And **my people** shall never again be put to shame.  
 You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,  
 and that I am the Lord your God and there is none else.  
 And **my people** shall never again be put to shame. – Joel 2:26-27 ESV*

- This when they heard Jesus say, “Our of his heart will flow rivers of living water,” this is what they would have had in mind
- And their response:  
*“This really is the Prophet” – vs 40  
 “This is the Christ” – vs 41  
 “Is the Christ to come from Galilee?” – vs 41  
 So there was division among the people over him. – vs 43*
- Remember, Jesus had declared Himself as having been sent from God
- **No Prophet** – John 7:45-52
  - The Sanhedrin had sent men to arrest Jesus, but they came back empty handed
  - “Why did you not bring him?” – vs 45*
  - There was disunity among the religious leaders regarding Jesus
  - Nicodemus argued for giving Jesus a fair trial
  - But his fellow Pharisees disagreed
  - They refused to even admit that Jesus might be a prophet
    - Jesus had been sent by God
    - But His mission included more than His incarnation
      - His crucifixion

- His resurrection
  - His ascension
  - His intercession
  - His second coming
- But they would remain **in the dark** and **blind to the truth**
- **The depth of the darkness** – John 7:53-8:11
  - A familiar story, but more to it than meets the eye
  - While Jesus **taught** in the temple, the Pharisees **caught** an adulterous woman
    - Jesus was all about **enlightenment** and **instruction**
    - The Pharisees were about **entrapment** and **condemnation**
    - They cared nothing about this woman

*Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" **This they said to test him**, that they might have some charge to bring against him. – John 8:5-6 ESV*

- They weren't asking Jesus for legal advice
  - They wanted to trap Him
- Jesus' response:
  - He wrote on the ground
  - He issued a challenge

*"...let the one **who has never sinned** throw the first stone!" – vs 7*

- This was about the pervasiveness of the **darkness**
- It was about exposing **the truth** of man's sin problem

*Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and **never sins**. – Ecclesiastes 7:20 ESV*

*...**no one living is righteous** before you. – Psalm 143:2 ESV*

- They all slink away in silence
- There was no one left to condemn her
- *"Neither do I condemn you"* – vs 11
- Remember what Jesus had told Nicodemus

***"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."** – John 3:17 ESV*

- The world already stood condemned
- All humanity was in darkness and believing a lie

- “I am the Light of the World” – John 8:12-20
  - Jesus offers Himself as the antidote to the prevailing darkness
  - And His claim supports the statements of John

*In him was **life**, and the **life** was the **light** of men. The **light** shines in the **darkness**, and the **darkness** has not overcome it.* – John 1:4 ESV

*...God is **light**, and in him is no **darkness** at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we 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 his Son cleanses us from all sin.* – 1 John 1:5-7 ESV

- True or false?
  - “your testimony is not true” – vs 13
  - “my testimony is true” – vs 14
- They accused Jesus of being a **liar**
- They were judging Him based on His words
- But Jesus claimed **veracity** based on His **authority**

*“These claims are valid even though I make them about myself. **For I know where I came from and where I am going**, but you don’t know this about me.”* – John 8:14 ESV

- Jesus had been sent by God
- And He would be returning to His Father’s side
- Still in the dark
  - The Pharisees still don’t understand what Jesus is talking about
    - “Where is your father?” – vs 19
    - “If you knew me, you would know my Father also” – vs 19
  - Jesus would later tell His disciples:

*“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. **No one comes to the Father except through me**. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”* – John 14:6-7 ESV

- Jesus was the **light of God** shining in the darkness
- Jesus was the **truth of God** exposing the lies of the enemy

- Still condemned to death
  - “you will die in your sin” – vs 21

They were from below  
They were of this world

He was from above  
He was not of this world

They would die in their sins                      He would die for sinners

***“...unless you believe that I am who I claim to be, you will die in your sins.”*** – John 8:24  
ESV

- Still blind to the truth  
*“Who are you?”* – vs 25
  - This is the key to understand John’s gospel
  - Jesus was...
    - ...the way, the truth, and the life
    - ...the Word of God made flesh
    - ...the light of the world                      BUT THEY REFUSED TO BELIEVE HIS CLAIMS
    - ...the Lamb of God
    - ...the Son of God
    - ...the bread from heaven
    - ...the Messiah
  - Jesus had not hidden the ball
  - He had been telling them “from the beginning”

- **A Light in the Darkness**

- Jesus was going to illuminate the darkness of the world  
*“When you **lifted up** the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he...”* – vs 28
- With His death, Jesus would become like a beacon on a hill

*“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must **the Son of Man be lifted up**, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.”* – John 3:14-15 ESV

*“And **when I am lifted up** from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself.”* He said this to indicate how he was going to die. – John 12:32 NLT

- Many believed (but only what they knew up to that point)
  - Their belief was incomplete

***“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*** – John 8:31-32 ESV

- They needed to remain committed to continue believing
- If they did, they would one day know the truth
- And the truth brings freedom...
  - ...to know Jesus’ true identity
  - ...to understand the depth of their depravity
  - ...to see their enslavement to sin

...to discover the source of their righteousness

- Free indeed  
*"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."* – vs 36
  - They would never experience the freedom Jesus offered them
    - They loved the darkness instead of the light (John 3:19)
    - They preferred lies to the truth (John 8:44)
    - They practiced sin rather than righteousness (John 8:34)
    - They were worldly rather than godly (John 8:23)
    - They were deserving of death and not life (John 8:24)
    - They were slaves and not sons (John 8:35)

### **For Further Thought**

- In declaring Himself to be "the light of the world," Jesus was offering Himself as the solution to a life lived in darkness. What was it about this claim that so aggravated the Jewish religious leaders?
- In what ways has Jesus illuminated the dark recesses of your life and exposed what has been hidden? Why do we tend to find this process so uncomfortable?
- What are some of the lies we believe that contradict the truth about Jesus, sin, righteousness, and God?