

Sermon Notes
Good News Church
"John 8 – I Am"
Father's Day
Drue Warner
6-15-25

SERIES: "Light, Life & Love" – Reflections on John 1-10

- **Date:** John was written between 90-100 A.D.
- **Purpose:** Who is Jesus - Liar, Lunatic, Lord?
- **Emphasis:** Belief and Life
 - *"But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing that they may have life in His name"*
- John 20:31

RECAP:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ John 1 – "Light"▪ John 2 – "Wine"▪ John 3 – "Believe"▪ John 4 – "Water"▪ John 5 – "Pool" (Ray) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ John 6 – "Bread" (Joe)▪ John 7 – "Thirsty"<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ KEY THOUGHT: Jesus is the ultimate satisfaction for our thirsty souls. |
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THIS WEEK: John 8:1-59 "I Am" (Year 2 of Jesus' earthly ministry)

- **Key Thought:** Knowing who Jesus is (love, light, Son of God, and God) directly impacts our ability to know God and be known by God.
- **Overview:**
 - Who is Jesus?
 - Who's your daddy?

SCRIPTURE TEXT: John 8:1-59 Who Is Jesus?

1. Who is Jesus? He's NOT what you'd expect... He's full of love and mercy (hesed)

SUMMARY of Jesus and the Woman Caught in Adultery

² At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. ³ The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group ⁴ and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. ⁵ In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" ⁶ They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. ⁷ When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, *"Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her."* ⁸ Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. ⁹ At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. ¹⁰ Jesus straightened up and asked her, *"Woman, where are they? Has no one*

condemned you?" ¹¹ "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

This is us. We're all guilty! Jesus did not give her condemnation or judgment. Instead, He gave her grace, forgiveness, and love.

- When we run to Jesus, we run to unconditional love, acceptance, protection, and salvation.
- When we run away from Him, we run straight into condemnation and as He says later in the chapter, we will die in our sins.
- Why would we not run to a Savior like this?

2. Who is Jesus? Light of Life - Who is Jesus: Light or Liar?

¹² When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

- As the "light of life," Jesus is full joy, full satisfaction, and full contentment.
- In Jesus, we say, "This is what (and who) I was made for!" > Purpose

Opposition – The Pharisees (i.e., Party Poopers)

- **SUMMARY of vs. 13-18 > "Your Testimony is not valid." – Pharisees**

¹³ The Pharisees challenged him, "Here you are, appearing as your own witness; your testimony is not valid."

- **Jesus gave them additional testimony:**

1. John the Baptist (John 5:31-36)

- Jesus met the Pharisees where they were and said, "If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true."
- Additionally, Jesus said... John has testified to the truth about Me. He was a lamp that burned and gave light. Basically, Jesus was saying, "*John was a Lamp, but I am the Light.*"

2. Jesus' Works:

- changed the water into wine (Cana, Galilee)
- healed the royal official's son (Cana, Galilee)
- healed the paralytic at the pool of Bethesda (Jerusalem)
- fed 5,000 people
- walked on water
- healed a BUNCH of sick and lame people (after crossing over)

3. The Father

- "*The works that the Father has given Me testify that the Father has sent Me.*"
– John 5:36

Jesus is not only Love and Light...

3. Who is Jesus? Son of God

a) Jesus has the most intimate relationship possible with the Father.

¹⁴ Jesus answered, **“Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where I came from and where I am going. But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going. ¹⁵ You judge by human standards; I pass judgment on no one. ¹⁶ But if I do judge, my decisions are true, because I am not alone. I stand with the Father, who sent me. ¹⁷ In your own Law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is true. ¹⁸ I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father, who sent me.”**

- Previously in John 5:19-20, Jesus says, ¹⁹ **Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. ²⁰ **For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does.** - John 5:19-20a**

- **What does Jesus see the Father doing?** Creating, blessing, providing, sustaining, showing mercy, extending grace, pouring out wrath, rescuing, restoring, redeeming, loving, enjoying (praise), working, etc.
- Just like an earthly father shows his son what he does, the Father SHOWS Jesus all that he does - side by side, intimate relationship, mentor and friend.

b) Jesus came to bring us into the relational intimacy that He shares with the Father.

- ³ **Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. – John 17:3**
- ²⁶ **I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.” – John 17:26**
- **God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. – 1 John 4:16**

^{19a} Then they asked him, “Where is your father?”

QUESTION: Who’s your Daddy?

- **The Pharisees were clueless... Is it Joseph? They didn’t know. They were also pre-determined in their thinking as to who Jesus’ father was not.**

Jesus went along with it and turned the tables in a shockingly unexpected way.

OPTION 1: God the Father (vs. 19-32)

^{19b} **“You do not know me or my Father,”** Jesus replied. **“If you knew me, you would know my Father also.”** ²⁰ He spoke these words while teaching in the temple courts near the place where the offerings were put. Yet **no one seized him, because his hour had not yet come.**

²³ **But he continued, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. ²⁴ I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins.”**

²⁵ **“Who are you?” they asked.**

“Just what I have been telling you from the beginning,” Jesus replied. ²⁶ **“I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is trustworthy, and what I have heard from him I tell the world.”**

²⁷ They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father. ²⁸ So Jesus said, **“When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. ²⁹ The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.”** ³⁰ Even as he spoke, many believed in him.

³¹ **To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”**

OPTION 2: Abraham (vs. 33-41)

³³ They answered him, **“We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?”**

- The Pharisees are displaying their pride, ignorance, and foolishness.
 - They weren’t thinking that the life of a Jew was a history of bondage (i.e., Egypt, Babylon, Assyria, Rome, etc.)!

³⁴ **Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.**

³⁵ **Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. (That’s what He came to do. Set them free.)**

³⁷ **I know that you are Abraham’s descendants (seed = Greek “sperma”).** Yet you are looking for a way to kill me, because you have no room for my word. ³⁸ I am telling you what I have seen in the Father’s presence, and **you are doing what you have heard from your father.”**

- Jesus explains to them that the bondage He’s talking about is sin. If you’ve ever sinned, then you’re in bondage to sin, and the only One who can set you free from the bondage of sin, is the Son.
- Jesus also pointed out that those who are slaves of sin are excluded from the house of God because they are not sons.

- “I know that you’re Abraham’s seed (notice He didn’t say “son”). Abraham became the initiating point of the next part in this conversation.

³⁹ “Abraham is our father,” they answered. “If you were Abraham’s children,” said Jesus, “then you would do what Abraham did. (skip 40) ⁴¹ You are doing the works of your own father.” “We are not illegitimate children,” they protested. “The only Father we have is God himself.”

- They responded, “Our father is Abraham.”
- Jesus responded, “If Abraham was your father, you would do his work, but you don’t. You do the work of your (true) father.”
 - *“Paternity is shown by behavior.”* - Jewish Annotated N.T.
 - In Galatians 4, Paul talks about Abraham’s illegitimate child, Ishmael, born of Hagar, and distinguishes basically to say that, *“It’s not so much about who your father is. Who’s your mother?”* Are you a child of sin (Hagar) or a child of the promise (Sarah)?
 - The Pharisees and religious leaders assumed that because they were Jews, they could call Abraham, father. They were wrong. It’s one thing to be Abraham’s seed. It’s another to be his son (and they weren’t sons).

OPTION 3: The Devil

⁴² Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me. ⁴³ Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. ⁴⁴ You belong to your father, the devil (Happy Father’s Day!), and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵ Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me! ⁴⁶ Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don’t you believe me? ⁴⁷ Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.”

Opposition – The Pharisees (vs. 48-50)

- Not sure how to respond... You’re a Samaritan and demon-possessed!

4. Who is Jesus? Jesus IS God.

⁵¹ Very truly I tell you, whoever obeys my word will never see death.”

⁵² At this they exclaimed, “Now we know that you are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet you say that whoever obeys your word will never taste death. ⁵³ Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?”

Skip vs. 54-55 ⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.” (In the O.T., Abraham very well may have stood face to face with Jesus (i.e., Melchizedek - King of Righteousness, King of Peace).

How do you know? (arrogance) ⁵⁷ “You are not yet fifty years old,” they said to him, “and you have seen Abraham!” ⁵⁸ **“Very truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!”**

⁵⁹ At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

- The entire Bible really is a story about a father’s great love, a love so great that he sacrificed his one and only son in order to *“bring many other sons and daughters into his family and into glory”* (Heb. 2:10)
- **Key Thought:** Knowing who Jesus is (love, light, Son of God, and God) directly impacts our ability to know God and be known by God.
- If Jesus were just a man whose teachings and example were there for us to follow IN ORDER to have relationship with God the Father, we’d fail before we ever started.
- **Who is Jesus?** Peter said, *“You are the Christ.”* We’ve seen in our text today that Jesus is love, light, the Son of God, and God. The question for you and for me today is, ***“Who do you say Jesus is?”*** And also, ***“What’s your next step?”***
- But the fact that Jesus is both truly (fully) man and truly (fully) God, puts Him in the place of SAVIOR who rescues us and secures our relationship with the Father, not by our ability to obey God’s Law, but by His. And when we believe by faith that Jesus is love, light, the Son of God, and God, we can rest assured in our relationship with the Father.

And THAT’S Good News!