

I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

In John 7, Jesus taught the Jews at the Feast of Booths in Jerusalem. As He did so, John records several different reactions to Him from the crowds (verses 10-30), those who believed in Him (verse 31), and the Pharisees (verse 32). In John 8:12-30, the Bible continues describing what happened at this important event by giving us “3 Claims that Jesus Makes about Himself and His Audience.”

1). I am the Light of the World (verse 12).

Verse 12 says,

“Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.’”

Discussion Question A: Explain this verse in your own words. How is Jesus the “light of the world” and how does that statement encourage you? Are there any other spiritual lights in this world beside Him? Why / Why not?

Discussion Question B: Why did Jesus say this at the Feast of Booths and what did the image of “light” have to do with this festival (hint: the pillar of fire in the wilderness)? How would this allusion to the pillar of fire have helped the Jews to understand what He was saying?

2). Most of His Audience Could Not See the Light because They Did Not Know God (verses 13-20).

Verses 13-19 says,

“So the Pharisees said to Him, ‘You are testifying about Yourself; Your testimony is not true.’

“Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Even if I testify 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. You judge according to the flesh; I am not judging anyone. But even if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone in it, but I and the Father who sent Me. Even in your law it has been written that the testimony of two men is true. I am He who testifies about Myself, and the Father who sent Me testifies about Me.’”

So they were saying to Him, ‘Where is Your Father?’ Jesus answered, “You know neither Me nor My Father.””

Discussion Question A: Jesus makes 3 points in this passage. What are they and how do each of them demonstrate that the Pharisees did not know God?

Discussion Question B: Would this have offended the Pharisees? How so? Did they consider themselves to be close to God already?

3). Most of His Audience Could Not See the Light because They were in Sin (verses 21-30).

Verses 21-24 says,

“Then He said again to them, ‘I go away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin; where I am going, you cannot come.’

“So the Jews were saying, ‘Surely He will not kill Himself, will He, since He says, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come’?’”

“And He was saying to them, “You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”

Discussion Question A: What did Jesus mean when He said that the Jews would die in their sins?

Discussion Question B: How does this help to explain their confusion towards Him and how does it help to explain people’s confusion towards Christ today?