

“The Gospel of John: The Light of the World”

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Scripture

John 8:12-20

“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.”**

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; if you knew Me, you would know My Father also.”**

These words He spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one seized Him, because His hour had not yet come.”

Back to John 8 -> Jesus was **talking about “Living Water”**

Feast of Tabernacles -> Water and Light Ceremonies

Water Ceremony

Each day for seven consecutive days a priest would walk up a ramp leading to the bronze altar located in the Temple Court and pour a jug full of water into a bowl that drained into the altar.

The ceremony of the water drawing was a jubilant occasion.

The Mishna states, **“He that has never seen the joy of the ceremony of the water drawing has never in his life seen joy.”**

As the ceremony took place, Levite's played lyres, trumpets, harps, cymbals, and other instruments, while other Levite's sang.

They would chant the Great Hallel -> **Psalms 113 to 118**

Isaiah 12:3

“Therefore, with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation”

It was a wonderful occasion that no one wanted to miss

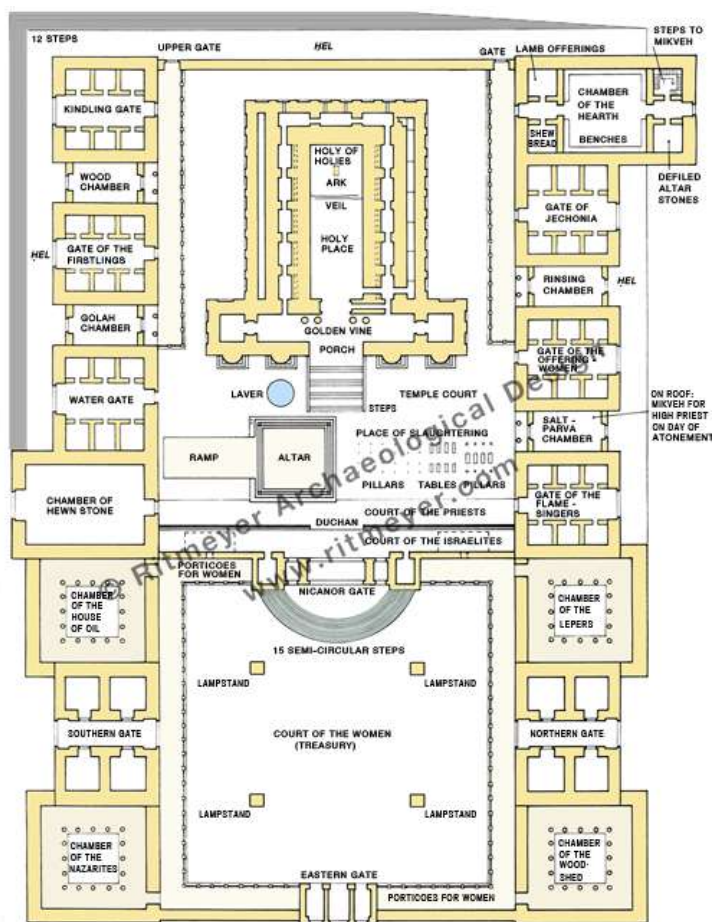
Setting the Scene

It is the last day of the Feast -> "The GREAT day of the Feast"

John 7:37-39

"Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, **from his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.**" But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."

The Messiah was prophesied to provide salvation -> He is the provider of "Living Water"



Light Ceremony

In the Temple area, four golden candlesticks nearly 75 feet high were lit by young boys climbing tall ladders, and the light from these candlesticks could be seen throughout all Jerusalem.

Respected men of faith danced and sang in front of these candlesticks while carrying burning torches. As the ceremony progressed through the night, the priest blew the shofar three times.

The temple is high up in Jerusalem

The Light of the World

Into this scene, Jesus strides

Everyone is celebrating loudly

The huge candlesticks have been lit

Think of a stadium with all the lights turned on that people can see from miles away

John 8:12

"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."

What does it mean that He is the Light of the World?

We can search the Scriptures to understand how the Light is described

The Light was prophesied to come:

Isaiah 9:2-7

“The people who walk in darkness Will see a great light; Those who live in a dark land, The light will shine on them.

You shall multiply the nation; You shall increase their gladness; They will be glad in Your presence as with the gladness of harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For You shall break the yoke of their burden and the staff on their shoulders, The rod of their oppressor, as at the battle of Midian. For every boot of the booted warrior in the battle tumult, and cloak rolled in blood, will be for burning, fuel for the fire.

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. **There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.”**

The Apostle John wrote about the Light at the beginning of his Gospel

John 1:1-5

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. **In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.”**

Jesus continued to remind people that He is the Light of the world:

John 9:4-5 (When seeing the man born blind)

“We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work. **While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world.”**

You know what we should do?

We should remind people that He is the Light of the world!

Micah 7:7-8

“But as for me, I will watch expectantly for the LORD; **I will wait for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me. Do not rejoice over me, O my enemy. Though I fall I will rise; **Though I dwell in darkness, the LORD is a light for me.”****

We should offer the His Light to others, as Isaiah did:

Isaiah 60:1

“Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you”

Many live in darkness -> **“he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life”**

The Pharisees were examples of living in darkness, but thinking that they were in the Light

“Follows Me” -> “to be totally committed to being a disciple of Jesus”

Many do not follow Him:

Isaiah 5:20

“Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; **Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!**”

Paul wrote of people knowing the truth but choosing darkness instead of light:

Romans 1:20-21

“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, **His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.**

For **even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and **their foolish heart was darkened.**”**

People love the darkness:

John 3:19-21

“This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. **“For everyone who does evil hates the Light and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.**

“But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.”

My Mum used to say, “I’m with you wherever you go, Geoffrey”

Live as if your mother was watching you every moment of every day

More importantly, Jesus is watching us every day

Where are you at with the Light?

Are you walking in the Light?

We should also live in the Light:

Ephesians 5:8-10

“You were formerly darkness, but **now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth)**, trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.”

John would later give an example of living in the Light:

1 John 2:8-11

“I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining. **The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now.**

10The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.”

We need to be careful to live in the light and check ourselves often

Jesus said it clearly:

Luke 11:35

“Then watch out that the light in you is not darkness.

John 8:12

“He who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, **but will have the Light of life**”

The Light of the world provided spiritual life to **those who are committed to Him**

These are the last words of Jesus to the crowds before He retreated to be alone with His disciples:

John 12:35-36

“For a little while longer the Light is among you. **Walk while you have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you;** he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes.

"While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become sons of Light." These things Jesus spoke, and He went away and hid Himself from them.”

John 12:46-48

“I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness. **"If anyone hears My sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world.**

"He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day."

Simply put, Jesus’s words are captured in the Bible

If we accept Him as Savior and Lord and dedicate our lives to following His principles, we are sons of Light

If, however, we reject the Bible OR know the truth of the Bible but fail to live by it, we are deceived

The Pharisees rejected Jesus:

Righteous Judgment

John 8:13-18

“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.**

15" 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.

17"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."**

The Pharisees, instead of accepting Jesus’s words, were hardened

“You are testifying about Yourself; Your testimony is not true.”

They say to Him, “We don’t believe you. We only have your words. You have no one to witness for you!”

Jesus responds: “Even if I testify about Myself, My testimony is true”

“Even if it’s only My words, that doesn’t mean it’s not true!”

He said, **“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.”**

In **John 5**, Jesus listed 5 witnesses that He was the Messiah:

- 1) His Personal Witness (John 5:31)
- 2) John the Baptist’s Witness (John 5:32-35)
- 3) The Works Jesus did were a Witness (John 5:36)
- 4) The Father’s Witness (John 5:37)
- 5) The Witness of the Scriptures pointed to Jesus (John 5:39-46)

Jesus then said:

“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.”

“You guys love to judge by the flesh” -> “All you see is the earthly perspective”

“You don’t have spiritual sight”

“I am not judging anyone”

In this visit to the Earth, Jesus was not playing the role of Judge

In His Second Coming, however, He will be the Judge -> All authority has been granted to Him by the Father

“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.”

If Jesus were to judge in this visit, however, He says that His judgment would be true

Why? -> Because He has the Father’s judgment

“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”**

You needed at least two witnesses in a court room to determine innocence or guilt

It could not be a “he said, she said” situation to have a conviction

This is what the Lord teaches in Matthew 18 -> “when two or three are gathered in My name, there I am”

Not to comfort the faithful few at a prayer meeting

The Pharisees did not have this righteous judgment

Instead, they are solely focused on earthly matters being blind to spiritual ones

Jesus tells them why their judgment is wrong:

You Don't Know Me

John 8:19-20

“So, they were saying to Him, "Where is Your Father?" Jesus answered, "**You know neither Me nor My Father; if you knew Me, you would know My Father also.**"

These words He spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one seized Him, because His hour had not yet come.”

The Pharisees did not know the Father -> They didn't know Jesus

They didn't have spiritual eyesight

Jesus will later tell them:

John 10:30-32

“I and the Father are one. The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him.”

The scariest passage in all of Scripture:

Matthew 7:21-23

“**Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.** "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; **DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.**"

It's scary to think that some could be in church their whole lives and simply never know the Lord -> never experience the Light at all

The Future Light

The New Jerusalem:

Revelation 21:22-24

“I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. And **the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.** The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.”

God with Us:

Revelation 22:1-5

“Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, **coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of its street.** On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, **because the Lord God will illumine them;** and they will reign forever and ever.”

Prayer - Benediction