# John 8:12-30 – Look to the Light

The first “I Am” statement of Jesus was recorded in John 6:35 as He proclaimed that He is the bread of life. The discussion of what that meant took most of John 6 and carried into John 7. As we get to the second I am statement, “I am the light of the World”, we find that it is the focus of most of chapter 8 and 9 and that the theme of Jesus as the light continues on with John 11 and 12. With nearly 20% of the book focused on Jesus as the light, it is obviously an important theme for John.

It is important to see something about the focus of these chapters that is easy for us to miss. John 10:22 says,

Then came the Feast of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter,

A few weeks ago, I gave you a list of the feasts that God required of the people of Israel. Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread and the Feast of First Fruits are all in the early spring. The Feast of Weeks is in late spring. The Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement and Feast of Tabernacles are all Autumn feasts. So what does this mean when it says the Feast of the Dedication was in winter. While God only commanded 7 feasts, there were other feasts that Israel instituted. After the defeat of Haman in the book of Esther they instituted a feast call Purim to celebrate their delivery, but Purim had nothing to do with the temple. At the time of Christ, Tisha B’Av (literally the 9th day of the month of Av) commemorates mourns the destruction of the First Temple in 586 B.C., and 35 years after Christ this was extended to mourn the destruction of the Second temple in 70 A.D. which also happened on the exact same date on the Jewish calendar. But this feast takes place in the middle of Summer and mourns the destruction of the temple, not its dedication.

There is only one Jewish feast that connects to the temple and is in the winter, that is the one called Hanukkah. This holiday celebrates the rededication of the Temple after the Maccabees had defeated the Seleucid Greeks. The Greeks had defiled the Jewish Temple by sacrificing a pig to the false God Zeus on the altar in the Jewish temple. Tradition states that after they cleansed the temple, in their zeal to worship God they lit the Menorah with the oil that they found, not realizing that there was only enough for one day. But God miraculously kept the lamp burning for the full 8 days that it took to create a new supply of consecrated oil. Because of this, Hanukah is also known as the feast of lights…thus as Jesus speaks of light in these chapters, He is reminding them of God’s standards (the oil had to be purified properly to be acceptable to God) and that God provides.

As Jesus addresses the topic, the Pharisees immediately objected and that led to the discussion we study today. From this passage, we see Jesus’s claim to be the light is valid because of His person. We see that His claim to be the light is confirmed by the Father. We see that we cannot follow the light except by trusting the light. Finally we recognize that the light reveals God’s nature and will.

## Jesus’s claim is valid because of His person. John 8:12-14

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

I find it fascinating that the pharisees do not try to attack Jesus based on His claims or His credentials. If Jesus had contradicted ANY of the prophecies of who the messiah would be, it would have been easy for the leaders to just bring out that fact and end His claim to be divine. Instead, they say His testimony is not true because He testifies about Himself. This was a violation of their own law. The law did not prohibit testifying about oneself, but instead says that someone testifying about themselves should be put under oath to tell the truth (Exodus 22:11). In fact, the pharisees celebrated that Jeremiah defended himself by testifying on his own behalf (Jeremiah 22:11-16).

If you are willing to know Jesus, His character will become a light to your path. If you deny His witness about Himself you will never see the true light.

## Jesus’s claim is confirmed by the Father. John 8:15-20

**15** You judge by human standards; I pass judgment on no one. **16** But if I do judge, my decisions are right, 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 men is valid. **18** I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father, who sent me." **19** Then they asked him, "Where is your father?" "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 area near the place where the offerings were put. Yet no one seized him, because his time had not yet come.

Jesus’s confidence about His judgment doesn’t come from pride, but rather from His confidence in God His Father. He pronounces the Trinity by saying He is distinct from the Father and that the testimony of two people is legally valid. At the same time, Jesus is in unity with the Father, not just to the extent that He is standing with the Father, but even pronouncing the Trinity as He says in John 10:30, “I am my father are one.”

When they ask “Where is your father”? They are trying to imply that Jesus is an illegitimate child. We don’t know what happened to Joseph, but the last time he is mentioned in scripture is when Jesus was 12 years old and teaching in the temple. There were also probably rumors about how Jesus was born before His parents had been married for 9 full months. Jesus switches them from improper speculation to spiritual fact as He says, if you knew me, you would know my Father also. This is a regular message from Jesus that the way to know the Father is by knowing Jesus.

## We cannot follow unless we trust the light. John 8:21-24

**21** ¶ Once more Jesus said to them, "I am going away, and you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I go, you cannot come." **22** This made the Jews ask, "Will he kill himself? Is that why he says, ‘Where I go, you cannot 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 the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins."

When Jesus says He is going away, the Jews actually get his meaning partially correct. Jesus is talking about leaving the human life, but He is not talking of His death, but rather His ascension to heaven. When he says “you cannot come,” it is saying that it is not in your power to come, you need help from outside yourself. If all Jesus was saying was that He was going to kill himself, they would have had the power, though not the desire or will, to follow Him. He is talking about His divine nature and returning to eternity.

Jesus reveals an important aspect of salvation. “I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins.” The reason people are condemned for their sins is their refusal to believe what Jesus claims about Himself. He has claimed to be the light, but men love darkness rather than life because their deeds are evil (John 3:19). Our sins will no longer cause our death if we faithfully believe His claims and follow where He is going.

## The light reveals God’s nature and will. John 8:25-30

**25** "Who are you?" they asked. "Just what I have been claiming all along," Jesus replied. **26** "I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is reliable, 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 the one I claim to be 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 put their faith in him.

Critics claim that Jesus never claimed to be God. He never said the words, “I am God,” but He also made it abundantly clear that He is God. When He says, “What I have been claiming all along,” it refers to statements like calling God His father, which the Jews recognized as calling Himself equal with God. He also says that the Father has given all judgment to the son. But He also testifies to the Trinity as He says, “He who sent me is reliable, and what I have heard from Him I tell the world.” If, as some cults teach, Jesus was identical to the Father and not a separate person, then the statements saying He was sent and that He heard from the one who sent Him would be meaningless. So in claiming to be the light, Jesus revealed the triune nature of God.

But Jesus also uses this instance to reveal God’s will. He says, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man.” This should remind us of John 3:14, “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up.” Jesus is alluding to being lifted on the cross to pay for our sins. Later, Jesus will promise that when Jesus was lifted He drew all men to Him (John 12:32).

If you look to the light, Jesus, in faith you WILL be saved, but if you look to your own ability, you CANNOT come to the Father.

## Communion

Blessed are You, LORD our God, King of the universe, Who sanctified us with his commandments, and commanded us to be a light to the nations and Who gave to us Jesus our Messiah the Light of the world.

Bread:

“Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.” (Joh 6:35 NIVUS)

“In him was life, and that life was the light of men.” (Joh 1:4 NIVUS)

Juice:

“I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.” (Ps 116:13 NIVUS)

# John 8:12-30 – Look to the Light

## Jesus’s claim is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because of His person. John 8:12-14

Someone testifying about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ should be put under oath to tell the truth. Exodus 22:11

The pharisees celebrated that Jeremiah defended himself by testifying on his \_\_\_\_\_\_ behalf. Jeremiah 22:11-16

If you deny His witness about Himself you will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ the true light.

## Jesus’s claim is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by the Father. John 8:15-20

He pronounces the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by saying He is distinct from the Father and that the testimony of two people is legally valid.

Jesus says, “I am my father are one.” John 10:30

The way to know the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is by knowing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

## We \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ follow unless we trust the light. John 8:21-24

When he says “you cannot come,” it is saying that it is not in your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to come, you need \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from outside yourself.

Men love \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ rather than life because their deeds are evil. John 3:19

Our sins will no longer cause our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ if we faithfully believe His claims and follow where He is going.

## The light \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God’s nature and will. John 8:25-30

Jesus made it abundantly clear that He \_\_\_\_ God.

Jesus testifies to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus revealed the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ nature of God.

Just as Moses lifted up the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up. John 3:14

When \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was lifted He drew all men to Him. John 12:32

If you look to the light, Jesus, in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ you WILL be saved.

If you look to your own ability, you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ come to the Father.