

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

John 8:12-20

Lesson #30

The Light of the World

02/28/2016

How did the Pharisees of Jesus' day expect to recognize the Messiah?

Conformity to the Law & Traditions.

Commendation by Israel's shepherds.

Condemnation of (Israel's enemies) the Gentiles.



1

This passage is best understood as consisting of two parts.

1.

Jesus is the light.

John 8

"¹² Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, **"I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life."**

2.

The Pharisees were blind to it.

vs. 13-20

2

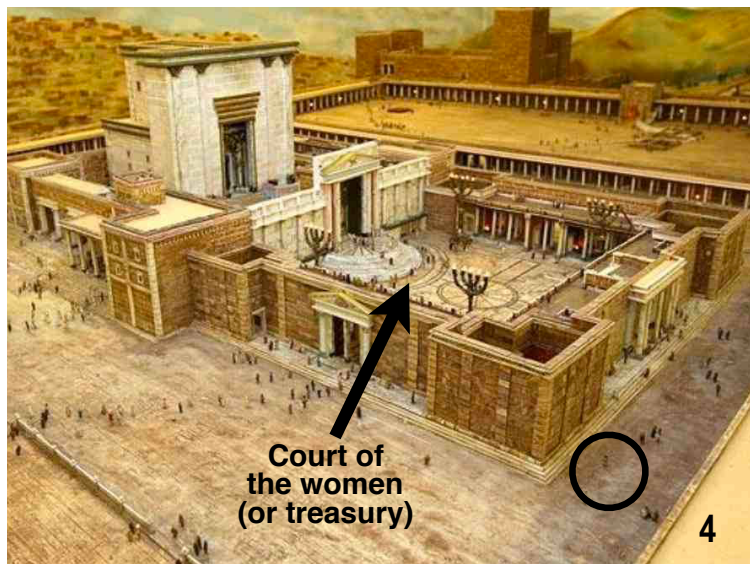
Observations

- The **setting** is the key to understanding this passage.
- John uses the word "**light**" 4 times more than the other Gospels combined.
- The reference to the "**world**" would be understood as "gentiles".

Isaiah 9:2

"The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them."

3



Court of the women (or treasury)

4

"O Lord of the universe,
Thou commands us to light the lamps to Thee, yet Thou art the Light of the World."



"I am the light of the world."



5

John 1

“9 There was the true light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.”

John 3

“19 And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.” (John 8:1-11)

6

2.

The Pharisees were blind to it.

“13 The Pharisees therefore said to Him, “You are bearing witness of Yourself; Your witness is not true.” 14 Jesus answered and said to them, “Even if I bear witness of Myself, My witness 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 people 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 He who sent Me.”

7

“17 Even in your law it has been written, that the testimony of two men is true. 18 I am He who bears witness of Myself, and the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me.” 19 And 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.” 20 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.”

Those who had eyes to see the Word of the Father in the O.T. would recognize Jesus as the Messiah, Son of God and man.

8

***What do people need
to find their way in life?***

***Light to illumine
the goal
and a clear path
to the goal.***

***Eyes to see the
goal and path.***



9

***What do people need
to find their way in life?***

Jesus said:

“I am the light of the world”

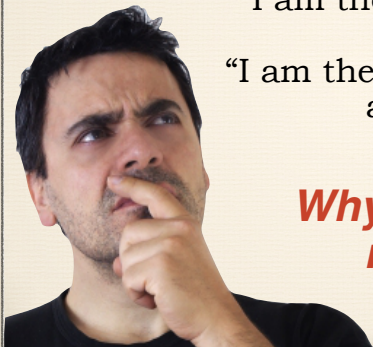
John 8:12

“I am the way, and the truth,
and the life”

John 14:6

***Why did so many
miss this?***

10



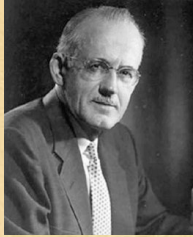
John 5

“37 And the Father who sent Me, He has borne witness of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form. 38 And **you do not have His word abiding in you**, for you do not believe Him whom He sent. 39 You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and **it is these that bear witness of Me**; 40 and you are unwilling to come to Me, that you may have life.”

***If the Pharisees listened to the O.T.,
they would have recognized Jesus.***

11

A.W. Tozer



"The disciple of Jesus needs more than light. He also needs sight. The blind man is not aided by light without sight."

12

"born again"?

John 3:3 - "Truly, truly, I say to you unless one is born **again (from above)** he cannot see the kingdom of God."

1 Peter 1:3 - "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be **born again (regenerated)** to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

1 Peter 1:23 - "for you have been **born again (regenerated)** not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God."

Does this refer to:

1. Enlightening so as to have freedom to believe or
2. Engrafting into Christ with the result of faith?

13

What can we do to find our way in life?

Look to Jesus as:

1. the prototype of what it means to be fully human and
2. the way of the Cross as the path to get there.

Once you have sight keep your eyes open.

14

C.S. Lewis



"I know the sun exists not because I can see it but rather that by it I see everything else."

15

What does the light illuminate?

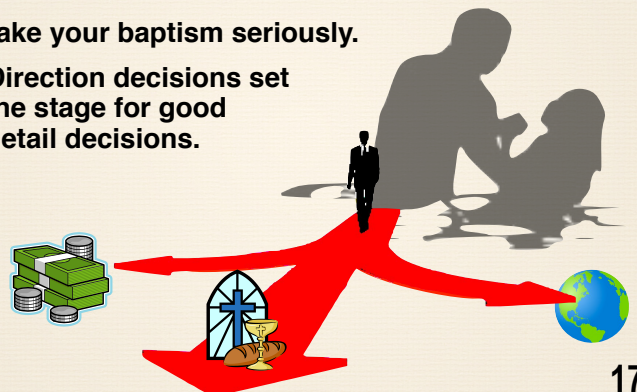
- **The presence and power of God.**
 - "order" and "beauty" in nature
 - accessibility to nature through reason
 - human accountability to God
- **The dignity and depravity of man.**
 - **Meaning** - purpose
 - **Morality** - conscience
 - **Mortality** - brokenness

Know yourself
(get in touch with who you really are)
Accept yourself
(apply the grace of Christ to yourself)
Forget yourself
(remove your defensive strategies)
Give yourself
(minister grace to others)

16

Facing in the right direction makes it easier to find the path.

- Take your baptism seriously.
- Direction decisions set the stage for good detail decisions.

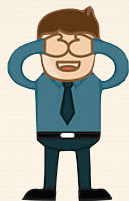


17

It's not only the blind that don't see.



The blind



Those who have sight but close their eyes or face in the wrong direction



Those who have sight but harden their hearts

18



EWTV
GLOBAL CATHOLIC NETWORK

As a powerful woman, how do you respond to those who say that women are not free to be ordained in the Catholic Church?

“Power in the Kingdom of God is the freedom to love. I have that freedom and I do not need a position or a title to exercise that power.”

19



Mother Teresa

When asked about her ministry as a social worker she replied, “My ministry is not social work, it is worship. My care for the suffering is my love for Jesus.”

20

The desire of our heart



My superficial hope as shaped by the world.

Maintain my self-protective shield.

Faith that a loving God would grant what I want.

To be reconciled to God, my neighbor, and myself.

21



Bell Hooks

“Love is moving toward another person’s soul with a commitment to help them reach the deepest desire of their heart.”

(which is reconciliation with God, neighbor, & self)

22

So what are the lessons for us?

- **Follow Jesus**, expecting not only to have the world illuminated but also to be enlightened to see it as it is.
- **Expect a mixed response to the Gospel**, knowing that those who truly love and seek God will receive and follow Jesus.
- **Remember** that the strongest witness to the Gospel is Jesus.
- **Seeing** requires light, sight, and facing in the right direction.

23