The Light of the World

John 8:12-32

Introduction:

A major feature of the Feast of Tabernacles was the lighting of giant lamps in the women’s court in the temple. The light illuminated the temple area and the people gathered to sing praises and dance. The light reminded the Jewish people of how God was with them in their wanderings in the wilderness in a pillar of cloud which turned to fire at night (Num. 9:15-23).

I. Jesus’ Testimony – 8:12-19

A. The Light of the World – 8:12

“Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, ﻿﻿“I am the light of the world. He who ﻿﻿follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

When Jesus said, “I am the light of the World,” He is going back:

Beyond The lighting of the lamps,

Beyond The pillar of fire in the wilderness,

Beyond Moses

Beyond Abraham

Beyond Moses

Beyond Noah

Beyond Adam

God said, “Let there be light” (Gen. 1:3); that was none other than the pre-incarnate Christ, “All things were made by Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.” (John 1:3)

B. The Lies of the World – 8:13-19

The Lie # 1 (Same song 3rd or 4th verse)

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“The Pharisees therefore said to Him, ﻿﻿“You bear witness of Yourself; Your witness is not ﻿﻿true.”

The Pharisees made statements, but they claimed to represent the Law. We are the interpreters of the Law. We insist that the people keep the Law – (outwardly)

1. What the Lord Said – 8:14-16

“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 and where I am going.”

Jesus’ testimony was true because He knew where He came from and where He was going.

“You judge according to the flesh; ﻿﻿I judge no one.” (8:15)

They judged by human standards. They were limited by superficial appearance.

His not judging may be a reference to His not judging the adulteress. He has already said that all future judgment has been given to Him by the Father. (John 5:22)

“And yet if I do judge, My judgment is true; for ﻿﻿I am not alone, but I *am* with the Father who sent Me.” (8:16)

He would be judging as the Father led Him.

2. What the Law said – 8:17-19

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“﻿﻿It is also written in your law that the testimony of two men is true.”

They can’t argue with the Law; that is their standard of truth. All He has to do is show the one other person who agrees with Him.

﻿“I am One who bears witness of Myself, and ﻿﻿the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me. Then they said to Him, “Where is Your Father?” (8:18-19a)

What about the witness of the Father at Jesus’ baptism? That was well known in Jerusalem.

“Jesus answered, ﻿﻿“You know neither Me nor My Father. ﻿﻿If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also.” (8:19b)

Israel had long since strayed from the God of Israel. The Law had taken His place with them. It is easy to substitute what you can see for what you can’t see.

II. Jesus’ Territory – 8:20-24

A. The Portals of His Territory – 8:20a

“These words Jesus spoke in ﻿﻿the treasury, as He taught in the temple;”

Jesus was standing in the temple which was a picture of His territory. In order to enter into the presence of God one need only to partake of the once-for-all sacrifice,

Enter into union with God’s Son through faith and go with the Son into the presence of the Father represented by the Glory between the cherubim. But they missed it altogether.

B. The Protection of His Territory – 8:20b

“and ﻿﻿no one laid hands on Him, for ﻿﻿His hour had not yet come.”

The temple was in the hands of the enemy. The Sanhedrin was in charge, but they did not know the God of the temple – Or His Son Who was standing before them!

He was protected by beings that they could not see.

Matt. 26:53

“Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with ﻿﻿more than twelve legions of angels?” – That’s 72,000 angels.

No one could lay a hand on Him. His time was not yet.

C. The Pathway to His Territory – 8:21-22

1. Its Godly protection – 8:21a

“Then Jesus said to them again, “I am going away,”

He could speak with confidence about His future plans. He was following the plan that His Father laid out before Him. He had not failed at any point and He knew that He would not fail. This was a result of His Father’s protection.

2. Its Great Divide – 21b-22

“and ﻿﻿you will seek Me, and ﻿﻿will die in your sin. Where I go you cannot come.” ﻿So the Jews said, “Will He kill Himself, because He says, ‘Where I go you cannot come’?”

There are two destinations: heaven and hell. Those who believe Him will go to heaven. There are some here now. Others will see the light before or when Jesus dies on the cross. But many will die in their sin and it will be too late.

They will all make their choice or choose not to choose. What does an unsaved person have to do to miss heaven? Not one thing, He is already on the road to Hell.

D. The Passport to His World – 8:23-24

1. The Need – 8:23

“And He said to them, ﻿﻿“You are from beneath; I am from above. ﻿﻿You are of this world; I am not of this world.”

He is not speaking of their physical location but their spiritual location.

2. The Nature – 8:24

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“Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; ﻿﻿for if you do not believe that I am *He,* you will die in your sins.”

There is only one remedy for sin (v21) or sins (v.24) and that is the death of Christ on the Cross. There is salvation in no other person, act, religion or creed. If you die in your sins there is no other chance for salvation.

III. His Word – 8:25-32

A. To Those Who Tested Him – 8:25-29

“Then they said to Him, Who are You?”

1. About His Father – 8:25-27

a. His Previous Testimony – 8:25b

“And Jesus said to them, “Just what I ﻿﻿have been saying to you from the beginning.”

We have heard them ask this question before.” “What I have been claiming all along” (NIV)

b. His Present Testimony – 8:26-27

1). Things He could not unveil - 8:26

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“I have many things to say and to judge concerning you, but ﻿﻿He who sent Me is true; and ﻿﻿I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him.”

He had things to say to them, most of which they did not understand. What they did understand they did not accept. They refused to believe that He was God in spite of His miracles and His authoritative teaching. They still ask who He was.

2).Things they could not understand – 8:27

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“They did not understand that He spoke to them of the Father.”

God was unknown to them so they missed Jesus (cf. 1:18).

2. About His Future – 8:28-29

a. What the Cross Reveals – 8:28a

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“Then Jesus said to them, “When you ﻿﻿lift ﻿﻿up the Son of Man, ﻿﻿then you will know that I am He,”

The cross would put the pieces together. The temple veil was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth quaked, rocks were split, graves were opened and dead saints appeared to their families. The Roman soldier said, ﻿﻿“Truly this was the Son of God!” The resurrection after3 days should have removed all doubt, but,

“A man convinced against his will is of the same opinion still.”

That doesn’t mean that they would believe; they had become set in their rejection of Him.

b. What the Christ Reveals – 8:28b-29

“and ﻿﻿*that* I do nothing of Myself; but ﻿﻿as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. ﻿And ﻿﻿He who sent Me is with Me. ﻿﻿The Father has not left Me alone, ﻿﻿for I always do those things that please Him.”

Much of His teaching would be verified at the cross. Some would believe, but most of these leaders would remain in unbelief.

B. Those Who Trusted Him – 8:30-32

1. They Received Salvation - Eternal Life – 8:30

“As He spoke these words, ﻿﻿many believed in Him.” [ἐπίστευσαν εἰς αὐτόν]

John 3:16 πᾶς ὁ πιστεύων εἰς αὐτὸν

2. He Urged Them on to Discipleship – 8:31

“Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you ﻿﻿abide (remain) in My word, you are truly My disciples.” [μαθηταί]

Believers had receive salvation and eternal life. Then they need to become disciples. They do that by remaining in the Word.

2 Corinthians 3:18

“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding ﻿﻿as in a mirror ﻿﻿the glory of the Lord, ﻿﻿are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory,”

Rom. 12:1-2 brothers, Col. 2: Put off the old man - put on the new man

3. He Promised Them Freedom.

“And you shall know the ﻿﻿truth, and ﻿﻿the truth shall set you free.”

John 17 – Sanctify them through your truth; your word is truth.

Conclusion: