

A person wearing a blue robe is walking on water, with their feet visible and creating a small splash. The background is a warm, golden sunset over a body of water, with the sun low on the horizon. The overall mood is serene and spiritual.

# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

**PART TWENTY-FOUR**

*The Word Made Flesh*



JOHN 8:12-20



# 1. I AM the Light (vv.12-20)

a. This is the second of 7 emphatic statements that Jesus will make about himself as given to us by John (Bread of Life; Jn 6:35)

i. The statements are intended to take us back to YHWH's self-revelation to Moses in the burning bush as much as it is an unpacking the meaning and significance of the name (YHWH)





- (1) Each I AM statement reveals to us something about God through the Son
- (2) Who He is and what He is capable of

ii. But more specifically, Jesus as the Light should refer one to

- (1) The Creation Narrative Gen 1:3

- (2) The Pillar of Fire, which led Israel's way

during the dark night, while keeping them warm at the same time (Ex 13:21-22).



b. Jesus as the Light Signifies the following:

i. He has come to dispel darkness (Jn 1:5)

ii. It is an expression of judgment (as light, darkness is under judgment)

iii. He presents himself as the standard

iv. He claims authority



v. He provides access to life

vi. Martin Luther: "This is a political statement with cosmic ramifications"

(1) If Jesus is THE Light, then other authoritative entities are insufficient

(2) They are impostors (if claiming ultimate answers)

(3) They are impotent (not all-powerful)



DQ- What are the Pharisees  
really saying in verse 13?



1. You were not to accept the testimony of one against another (capital offenses) without more than one witness (Num 35:30; Deut 17:6); this was later applied to other legal matters





2. In essence, they are saying, even if what you say is actually true--you're out of order, Jesus; it is considered invalid because you don't follow protocol



## c. Jesus' True Testimony (vv.14-18)

i. Jesus says, proper protocol not followed doesn't stop my words from being true (v.14)

ii. The Pharisees and Jews judging Jesus according to the flesh is their fundamental problem (v.15)



(1) This flaw is what keeps them from thinking that he COULD be more and from seeing that he IS more

(2) This same flaw is what keeps some of us at bay or stuck at points in life because we think that the only people who can help us have to look a certain way

(3) Some call it judging a book by its cover





(4) Some called it unconscious bias:

"This refers to the attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions, and decisions in an unconscious manner. Unlike explicit prejudice, people may not even be aware they hold these biases, yet they can still lead to discriminatory outcomes."



(5) Others may call it racism or sexism

(6) The Bible calls it good old-fashioned  
"spiritual blindness" (2 Cor 5:6ff.)

iii. Jesus' statement that he does not  
judge means that he does not judge anyone  
the way they are judging him



iv. His reference to "your law" (v.17) is not him distancing himself from the Mosaic law, but rather pointing out how they have added to Moses' law over time

v. However, in order to meet your criteria, here you go--I bear witness about me and so does my Father (v.18)





vi. They continue to look for worldly validation

(1) Jesus says that worldly validation/understanding will not get you where you need to be (a recurring theme in the book)

(2) You don't know my Father because you don't know me



(3) When the world is seeking  
corroboration, God sends Jesus as the  
Incarnation



DQ- Why does the world's logic fail to result in sufficient belief?

