

Light lets you see and comprehend the world around you, and light can keep you from stumbling. In John 8, Jesus used this incredibly easy to understand concept as a real life metaphor to explain a deep spiritual reality. Jesus said that life without Him is life in darkness, but life with Him is life in light.

What I believe we will learn today is this:

A CHRIST GUIDED LIFE IS A WELL LIT JOURNEY TO ETERNAL LIFE, BUT ANY OTHER LIFE IS A DARK JOURNEY TO ETERNAL DEATH.

Jesus offers, through Him, a well lit life and eternal life, but He also severely warns us that without Him, the only option is darkness, sin, and death. What He offers is clear and simple, but unfortunately the majority of people in this world don't want what He offers.

I'd like us to focus on 2 major claims that Jesus makes in these verses.

Claim #1 - Jesus claimed that a close walk with Him guarantees that a person will live with a clarity of life that only comes from God and will not live in the darkness of the world. **8:12-20**

V. 12 - If Jesus is the light of the world, that means this world, without Jesus, is dark. That is what the Bible teaches us, and although this world is dark, Jesus has come into this dark world and has provided light because that is who He is. Jesus is light in a dark place. Jesus promised that those who follow Him **will not** walk in darkness.

What does it look like to walk in darkness? To walk in darkness means that you stumble your way through life. You don't know where you are going, and you don't have anyone or anything guiding you in life other than yourself. You have no guide, no direction, no purpose, and no clear destination.

What does it look like to not walk in darkness but to have the light of life? Rather than stumbling your way through life, you are guided through life on a well lit path by the Creator of life. You have a clear direction, a clear purpose, and a clear destination. You have a Word of instruction to keep you on track, and you have a Father/child relationship with the Creator/Designer God of the universe.

The difference has to do with the word follow. This is different than believe. Believing in Jesus provides eternal life. Follow does not provide eternal life. Following Jesus does not determine our eternal standing before God, believing does. What following Jesus does determine is what our daily life will look like.

Are you willing to follow Jesus so that you will walk in light? Or would you rather not follow Jesus so you can walk in darkness?

V. 13 - Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." In response, the Pharisees said, "we won't believe you because you're just talking about yourself." Back in chapter 5, Jesus said that if He alone was claiming something about Himself that His claim couldn't be true. He went on in that chapter to say He wasn't making His big claims alone, but that God the Father, through the Word of the Old Testament, had already defended Jesus in His claims.

Jesus gives a Scripturally accurate response to the Pharisees' statement that He was not telling the truth.

V. 14 - "I am allowed to speak about Myself, but I am not speaking by Myself. Back in chapter 5, I said, 'if I alone bear witness about Myself' (5:31). I am not alone in anything I do (5:19). I have come from God the Father in heaven (3:13; 6:46), and when I leave this earth, I will go back to God the Father in heaven (7:33). You would know nothing about that because you haven't been listening to Me (7:35)."

V. 15 - "You only look at Me and see a man of Nazareth (7:52) when in fact I was born in Bethlehem (Luke 2:4-6), but I am from heaven. I don't look at people like you do and judge by only what I see on the outside (2:25). I don't judge people like you do (8:1-11). I have not come here to judge (3:17)."

V. 16 - "But if I tell you that you are currently under the judgment of God (3:18), then I am only saying what God the Father is saying to you (Ps. 1:5; 14:2-3). He sent me to say what He says (3:34; Deut. 18:18)."

V. 17 - "I know your law says that two witnesses are necessary to establish if a claim is true or not. (Deut. 17:6; 19:15)."

V. 18 - "Nothing I have said about me is coming just from me. All of what I have said about Myself are the same things that God says about Me (Isaiah 9:2, 6). And if you want two witnesses, I can give two. I am one witness (8:14). My Father is the second witness (Matt. 3:17). I am not unlawful in My words or actions. Even though I speak about Myself, I am not speaking by Myself."

The Pharisees tried to trap Jesus and call Him out on a technicality, but Jesus perfectly navigated His way through that attack and came out blameless. The Pharisees then ask about Jesus' Father.

V. 19 - Essentially, they are saying, "bring your dad here and let Him speak for Himself about you. You say He testifies about you. Bring Him here and let's hear Him speak."

"If you knew Me, you would know My Father - God in Heaven. If you knew that I am the eternal, divine Son of God come out of heaven from the Father, you would know that My Father is God in heaven, and you would not need to be asking me where My Father is."

If you want to know God, you must know Jesus. Do you know Jesus?

V. 20 - The Pharisees hated Him more and more, but like we saw back in chapter 7, it was not Jesus' time to die yet, so God prevented the Pharisees from doing anything to arrest Jesus. John mentioned the location where Jesus said all this. He spoke out in the open. The treasury was also known as the court of women. This would have been a very accessible part of the temple where men and women could gather. This is a place where that woman of 8:1-11 could hear Jesus teach. Maybe she thought to herself that she was tired of living in darkness.

Are you tired of walking in darkness? Would you like to describe your life as a well lit journey to eternal life? Come to Jesus. Believe in Him and follow Him and watch what happens in your life.

Claim #2 - Jesus claimed that failure to believe in Him guarantees that a person will die as a condemned sinner. **8:21-30**

V. 21-22 - Jesus predicts His death once again (7:33-34). The Jews take a guess that He will commit suicide. It appears that they say this with a scoffing, mocking attitude.

V. 23 - In other words, Jesus is saying, "let me be clear. You assume I will kill Myself and go below into the deepest torment of hell, but what you don't understand about Me is that I am not from below. I am not from earth. I am from above. I am from heaven. I came from heaven. You are not from heaven. You have not come from heaven. You are from earth. You are from below. You are of this world. You have been brought up in this evil, worldly system, and you will end up where everyone else of this world ends up. I, however, am not of this world. I am not from this evil world system. I am not going to end up where the world ends up."

V. 24 - Twice, Jesus says to this crowd of mocking, rejecting, self-righteous, and confident people, "you will die in your sins." You know what the worst kind of death anyone could ever experience is? The worst death anyone could ever experience is to die in sin. There is nothing worse, nothing more tragic, and nothing more frightening than for a person to die in his sins.

Have you believed in Him? Has God forgiven you of all your sins? Or if you died today, would you die in your sins?

V. 25 - Who does Jesus claim to be? Jesus had been telling them all along, "I am the only one that has come from heaven (3:13). I am the provider of eternal life (4:14). I am the judge (5:22). I am bread of life (6:35). I am the giver of the Holy Spirit (7:38-39). You do not know the Father, but I know Him because I am from Him (7:29). I am the light of the world (8:12). I can keep you from darkness (8:12). I am the way. I am the truth. I am the life. I provide access to the Father (14:6). I am the good shepherd (10:11). I am the true vine (15:1). I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in Me will live even if he dies (11:25)."

V. 26 - Jesus tells them that He could go on and tell these people everything about them. They don't even know who He is, but He knows everything about them (2:24). He could point out every detail of every person's life.

V. 27 - It's like John is sad in his retelling of this story. These men did not even know that Jesus was talking about The Father. He was talking about God in heaven. They thought they knew God, but what became evident as Jesus spoke was that God the Father was unknown to them. They couldn't know God, because they refused to know Jesus.

V. 28 - "If you think that I am out of my mind and that nothing I say is true, remember these words. Someday you will see Me lifted up. You will nail me to a cross and raise me up. When that day comes, that event will prove to you that everything I said was true. Everything I have done was true. You will know that I am all that I claim to be. You will know that I am not alone, but that God the Father has sent Me and He has told Me what to say."

V. 29 - Jesus is saying once again, "I am not alone. God the Father is with Me in everything I do. I may be rejected by everyone, but there is one who sticks with Me, that is the Father. He is always with Me because I do what is pleasing to Him."

Did you know the same can be true of us? The more that you live a God-honoring, God-pleasing life, the more you will be aware of the fact that God is always with you, that Christ is always with you, and that God's Spirit is always with you (John 14:23; Eph. 1:17-19; 3:17-19).

V. 30 - Praise God that John was able to mention that many believed in Jesus as He spoke. Maybe it was some of the women in the courtyard, maybe it was some of the children, maybe it was some of the Jewish men, and maybe even some of the Pharisees believed. John doesn't tell exactly who, but he says many believed in Him.

The question is: Will you believe? If you believe in Him, you will not die in your sins.

If you have already believed in Jesus, don't stumble your way through life in the darkness. You have access to the light of life. Follow Jesus. Live according to His word. Live your life according to the Bible, and as you live your journey on earth, your path will be well lit by the one who has given you eternal life - the light of the world - Jesus Himself.