

Walking with Jesus

Part 5

“I’d rather be a Worshiper, than a Critic”

John 8 NIV

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. **15** You judge by human standards; I pass judgment on no one. **16** But if I do judge, my decisions are true, 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 witnesses is true. **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.”

Vs. 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.”

- John writes, “When Jesus spoke again to the people...”
- In chapter 7, Jesus is teaching in the temple courts during the Feast of Tabernacles. Chapter 8 takes place the next day and Jesus goes

to teach again when the religious leaders interrupt Jesus by bringing a woman caught in the act of adultery...

- Once that is settled, Jesus resumes teaching the people and he says these words, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”
- Jesus is speaking in regard to the celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles where light was an important symbol. During the feast, many emblems and ceremonies remembered the pillar of fire that gave light to Israel during the Exodus. Now, Jesus took this important symbol and simply applied it to Himself: “I am the light of the world.”

Vs. 13

The Pharisees challenged him, “Here you are, appearing as your own witness; your testimony is not valid.”

- At this point the religious are troubled and annoyed with Jesus...
- The Woman caught in adultery was a test and distraction...
- Now they are directly challenging Jesus and the valid nature of His testimony about himself...

Vs. 17-19

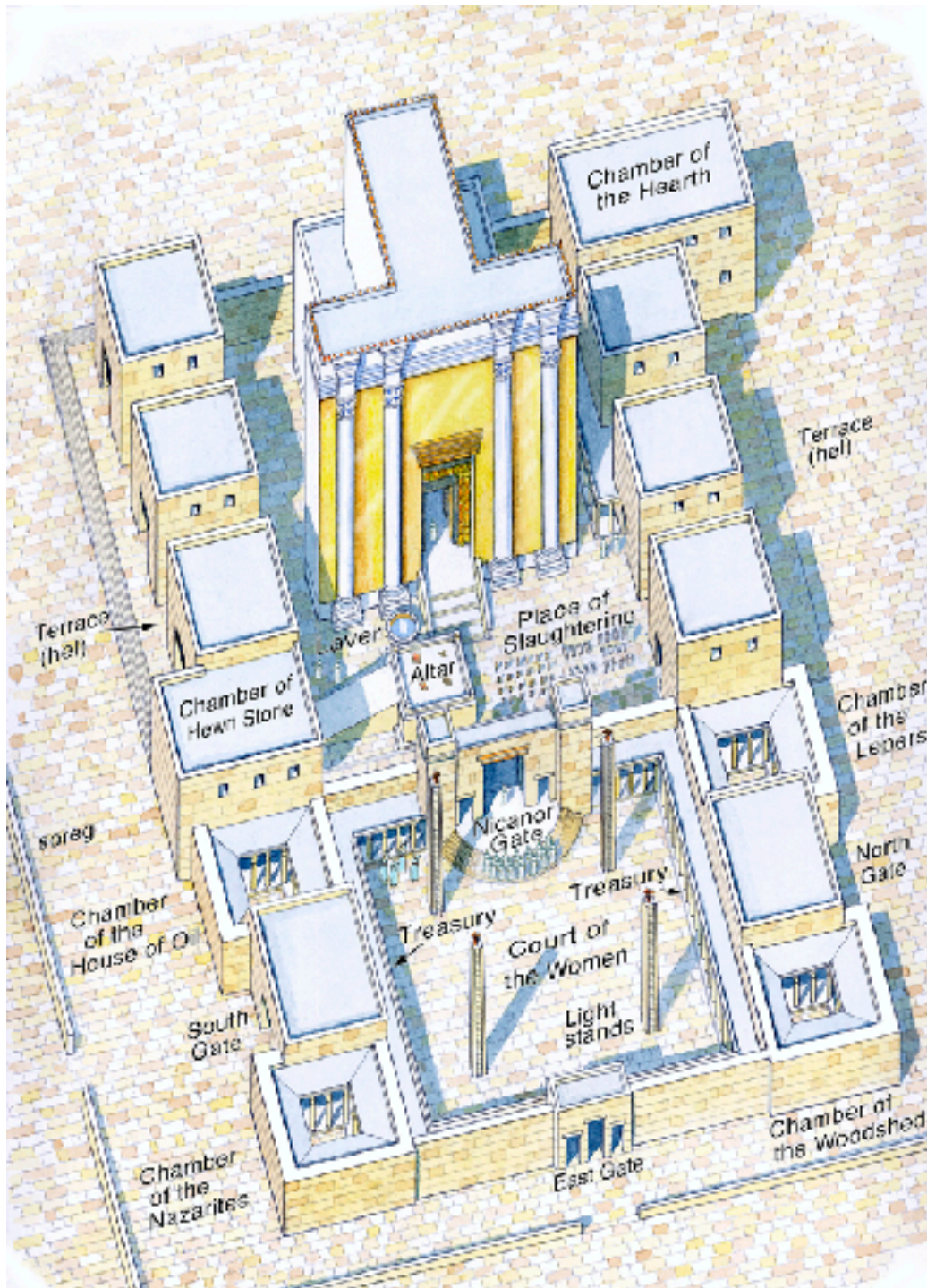
17 In your own Law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is true. **18** I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father, who sent me.”

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.”

- This next verse is the part that grabs me...

Vs. 20 He spoke these words while teaching in the temple courts near the place where the offerings were put.



- Jesus is speaking to religious leaders in the outer courts, in the place of worship...

- Next to him is the Gate that leads to the Inner Court where the Brazen Alter is found, where sacrifices is made to God...
- They are standing in the place of worship, face to face with the Son of God and they don't know him... There is nothing that about Jesus' presence that gripes them, nothing leaping on the inside saying this is the Son of God...
- Jesus says, "You do not know me or my Father, If you knew me, you would know my Father also."
- Have they become so wrapped up in religion that they are unfamiliar with the one they claim to worship...

Worshipper: Noun

Worship: Verb

To kiss the hand, in token of reverence.

To fall upon the knees and touch the ground with the forehead as an expression of profound reverence.

John 4:23 NIV

Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.

John 14:17 NIV

the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

- It takes the Spirit of God to be a Worshipper...
- It takes the Spirit of God to know Him...
- The Religious leaders were missing out on both...

2 Samuel 6 NKJV

12 Now it was told King David, saying, “The Lord has blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all that *belongs* to him, because of the ark of God.” So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with gladness. **13** And so it was, when those bearing the ark of the Lord had gone six paces, that he sacrificed oxen and fatted sheep. **14** Then David danced before the Lord with all *his* might; and David was wearing a linen ephod. **15** So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet.

16 Now as the ark of the Lord came into the City of David, Michal, Saul’s daughter, looked through a window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart. **17** So they brought the ark of the Lord, and set it in its place in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. Then David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord.

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20 Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, “How glorious was the king of Israel today, uncovering himself today in the eyes of the maids of his servants, as one of the base fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!”

21 So David said to Michal, “*It was* before the Lord, who chose me instead of your father and all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the Lord, over Israel. Therefore I will play *music* before the Lord. **22** And I will be even more undignified than this, and will be humble in my own sight.

- David saw the Ark of the Covenant blessed the house of Obed-Edom and knowing it was being brought back to Jerusalem, where it belonged, filled his heart with excitement...

- David was fired up as a Worshipper, because he was aware of the Goodness and the Blessing of God...
- It's hard to worship, if your not know that He's Good..
- David's Worship says something about the kind of man he was...
- Michal's criticism towards David says something about her as well...

Acts 13:22

(Paul speaking to Jew and Gentile in Pisidian Antioch says:)

...God testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'

David was a man after God's own heart...

His determination to Worship God is proof of that, even in the face of criticism...

David says, "And I will be even more undignified than this..."

David's Worship was proof that he knew God and Walked with God...

Mark 14

3 While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.

4 Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, "Why this waste of perfume? **5** It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor." And they rebuked her harshly.

6 “Leave her alone,” said Jesus. “Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. **7** The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. **8** She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. **9** Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”

10 Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them.

- John’s account of this tells us that this was Mary of Bethany, the sister of Lazarus and Martha.
- This was an extravagant display of devotion to Jesus. Often spices and ointments were used as investments because they were small, portable, and could be easily sold.
- The flask was a small bottle with a thin neck and breaking the neck of the bottle opened it. Mark’s wording indicates that she poured the entire contents of the bottle on the head of Jesus.
- It was customary during this time, when a guest arrived for a meal, to anoint the guest’s head with a dab of oil. Here, this woman went much farther. She poured the entire contents of an alabaster flask of very costly oil on the head of Jesus.
- Her statement to Jesus by doing this says, you are worth more to me than this.
- Others with a critical spirit felt differently...

Vs. 4,5 tells us some were indignant with her and rebuked her harshly, yet Mary did this without a word. She didn’t announce what she was going to do, and she didn’t describe it as she did it. Nor did she explain it after. She simply expressed her love towards Jesus with this act.

- Judas may have started the criticism, but he wasn't alone for long. Mark made it clear that **they rebuked her harshly**. Each one looked at the oil on Jesus' head and considered it wasteful. Mary probably started to wonder if she did something wrong.

But Jesus said, "Leave her alone, Why are you bothering her?"

In the midst of her worship, Jesus fights for her...

God will do that for you...

There will be critics, those who don't understand your worship and devotion and when they speak against you, God has a word for them in your defense... Leave Him/Her alone...

"It's easy to criticize those who show more love to Jesus than we do. We sometimes want to define a fanatic as someone who is more devoted to Jesus than we are." David Guzik

Your Worship says a lot about your Walk with Jesus...

Jesus breaks this down:

She has done a beautiful thing to me. 7 The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But **you will not always have me. 8 She did what she could.** She poured perfume on my body beforehand to **prepare for my burial. 9** Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, **what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."**

1. Her Worship was beautiful to God

2. She recognized the moment - "The poor you will always have with you... But you will not always have me."

3. She did what she could - Her offering was what she had and wanted to give to God.. it really wasn't anybody's business.

4. Her worship was divinely lead - Her worship was prophetic in that she was preparing Jesus for His burial.

5. Her act of worship and sacrifice will be an example for the world. - "wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."

6. Lastly - Her worship got her closer to Jesus than anyone else in the room.

Same is true of our Worship to God

1. It's Beautiful to God...
2. It shows we recognize his presence...
3. We can only give to God what we have...
4. It's often prophetic and keeps us in step with what he is doing...
5. It's a beautiful example to those watching...
6. It will keep us close to Jesus...