

## Whosoever Will 6-14-26

Good morning. We're moving right along in our study of the Gospel of John. This morning we're going to be looking at John chapter 8, where Jesus talks about light and liberty. The chapter pretty much breaks down into three different parts. First section, he talks about light and darkness in verses 1 through 20. Verses 21 to 30, he talks about heaven and earth. And then in the final section starting in verse 48, he talks about honor and dishonor. We've already seen how the religious leadership brought this poor woman to Jesus in order to trap him, to force him into a moral dilemma. If he sets her free, he violates the Mosaic law. But if he condemns her, then how can he claim to be the forgiver of sins? And of course, as usual, he just totally confounds them. Sometimes he gives them a lecture instead of an answer. This time it's just utter silence. The Bible records simply that He wrote.

In the sand, probably just indicating his tremendous amount of patience and grace towards sinners that these religious leaders have hounded him for weeks, months, and still he is just patiently dealing with them. But the story begins with light and dark. Our part of the story begins in verse 12 of John chapter 8. And then Jesus spoke again to them, saying, I am the light of the world. The one who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. Another of the great I am statements that appear only in the book of John. Jesus talks this time about how his light of forgiveness has already shone on this poor woman, that he has forgiven her sins. But it's not just a light unto her, it is a light unto the entire world. This salvation, this gift of freedom that she has received is available to the entire world, to anyone who is willing to accept it.

In that day, it was the Jew or the Gentile. That was how people were broken down. Today, it's the whosoever wills. Anyone who is willing to come to Jesus, He will in no way turn them away. But to those like the religious leadership who are determined to reject the truth about the Son of Darkness, they are left in darkness. They're left in sin. They are going to be in eternal damnation. Speaking on this verse, Doctor Harry Ironside said this: There's nothing more blind than religious prejudice, and these religious leaders have proved it over and over again. So Jesus always accuses them from the very scriptures that they claim to know and to love and to preserve so well. In Isaiah chapter 60, Isaiah said the Lord will be a light to his people. In Isaiah 42, Isaiah said he will be a light to the whole world.

Zachariah even wrote about light. He said, "The Lord will give his people light and living water." And then John himself, many years later, would write in Revelation twenty one, "The Lord will be the lamp of the new Jerusalem." So this concept of Jesus being the light of the world is nothing new. It had been around since the days of Isaiah. It had been around basically since God said, "Let there be light." Verse thirteen: And so the Pharisees said to him, "You are testifying about yourself." Your testimony is not true. The hypocrites remind him, "You can't be your own witness; it's not allowed." Our law says it's not their law; it's God's law, but they had turned it into their law with numerous additions and do's and don'ts that only they felt like they could keep. The ordinary people could not, which made them superior to everybody. Verse fourteen: And Jesus answered and said to them, "Even if I am testifying about myself,"

My testimony is true, because 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. When you were growing up, did your mother ever say to you, 'Because I said so'? That's basically what Jesus is saying to them: 'This is true because I said so.' 'I am the living Word; I said it; it is true.' Several times already He has given them multiple witnesses. As to the truth about who he is, particularly in chapter five, we looked at five witnesses. There was the witness of Jesus himself. There was the witness of John the Baptist. There was the witness of the miracles, the signs, the wonders that all people including the religious leadership had seen. There was a witness of his heavenly Father. There was the witness of the scriptures. There was the witness of the Holy Spirit. Numerous witnesses as to the fact that Jesus was indeed.

The Son of God, He said, "I know everything about Me, but I also know everything about you. I know where I have come from. I know where I am going back to. You know none of these

things, and furthermore, I know where you are going, and I am not going where you are going. You are not coming to where I am.” Verse fifteen He says, “You 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 the Father who sent me. Even in your law, it has been written about the testimony of two people is true. I am He who testifies about myself, and the Father who sent me testifies about Me. Jesus says, “I did not come to judge mankind; I came to save mankind.” But when I return in power and might, I will be returning as Judge.

God is the judge. He has meted out that power to me. The Father has ordained this, and He reminds them again that there are multiple witnesses to who He is. Verse nineteen says, “And so they were saying to Him again, the religious leadership, ‘Where is your Father?’ And Jesus answered, ‘You neither know Me nor My Father. If you knew Me, you would know My Father also.’” Now they want to see this heavenly Father that Jesus is always talking about. They don’t realize that He and the Father are one. To see the Son is to see the Father, so they are indeed seeing the Father. The Father is standing right before them, basically lecturing them. Some have suggested that they are referring to Jesus’ illegitimate birth. They’re basically saying, “Your mother was pregnant before you were born, so you were born in sin.” As a matter of fact, do you even know who your father is? And of course.

Jesus knows who his father is. He knows where his father is, but as he told him in the last verse, he also knows everything about these religious hypocrites. He knows who their father is too. It is the devil, Satan himself. Verse twenty: These words, he spoke in the treasury as he taught in the temple area and no one arrested him because his hour had not yet come. The confrontation takes place in the temple in Jerusalem. They have tried numerous times to arrest Jesus, but they have been unable to do it. He simply vanishes from their side, disappears into a crowd or reappears somewhere else. His time had not yet come; he has an appointment with Calvary, and nothing is going to interfere with that time schedule. The next section he talks about heaven and earth (verse twenty-one). He begins and says, ‘And then he said to them again, “I am going away, and you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot.”’

Come back in chapter seven, verse thirty four. He told them that he was only here for a short amount of time, but now he reminds them again. He says, ‘Unless you believe and repent, you cannot follow me. You cannot go to where I am.’ They have seen his signs, they have seen his wonders, they have heard his words, his parables. All of these things they have had numerous opportunities. Opportunities that we have never had. We look back in eyes of faith. They are seeing these events in real time, and yet they stubbornly refuse to believe that he could possibly be their Messiah, that he could be the Son of God. If you’ve ever wondered about second chances at salvation, here is your answer, particularly after you have died, is there a second chance at salvation? Jesus clearly answers it here.

If you die in your sins, you cannot come to where I am. There are no second chances for salvation after death. If you die in your sins, if you die lost, if you die without having accepted Jesus as your savior, there are no second chances. You will be spending eternity in damnation with your father Satan. Verse twenty two And so the Jews were saying, ‘Surely he will not kill himself,’ will he? Since he says, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come,’ blind and stupid would be a good description of them here. Now they think when he’s talking about being unreachable, maybe he’s going to commit that unpardonable sin of suicide. Earlier they thought he was going away to teach the Jews of the dispersion, and now they think he’s going to kill himself. But they’re sort of wrong on both counts.

They’re actually making a prophecy here and not realizing it. Though Jesus did not kill himself, he voluntarily laid down his life for others. They have actually made a little bit of prophecy here about what’s going to happen in a very short period of time. Verse twenty three: He was saying to them again, ‘You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.’ And therefore I said to you, that you will die in your sins unless you believe that I am. You will die in your sins. So again, Jesus uses that great expression, ‘I am,’ the words that he used to describe himself to Moses before he began his journey with God. ‘I am’ always have

been, always will be. He talks about above and below. He talks about heaven and hell. He says we're from two different places.

And we are going to two different places unless you repent and believe. Verse 25, And then they were saying to him, 'Who are you?' And Jesus said to them, 'What have I been saying to you from the very beginning? I have many things to say and to judge regarding you. But he who sent me is true, and the things which I heard from him, these I say to the world.' They did not realize that he was speaking to them about the Father. Some translations phrase this more as a statement of frustration than a specific question. 'This, who are you?' Time and again, Jesus has told them clearly who He is; He's given them multiple witnesses as to who He is, but they have willfully stubbornly refused to hear and refused to believe.

What they are seeing taking place right before their very eyes, Jesus is basically saying, 'There is no point in me telling you again. Your minds are made up. You are never going to change them. You do not recognize the Son, so how are you going to recognize the Father?' But he said, 'This conversation is over. I am done with you.' Verse twenty-eight: So Jesus said, 'When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am.' There is that great expression again. And I do nothing on my own, but I say these things as the Father instructed me. And He who sent me is with me; He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him. And as He said these things, many came to believe in Him. Jesus concludes literally with the same illustration that he had given to Nicodemus that night: 'When you see Me lifted up on a cross.' He is of course.

Making a double reference to the fact that he will indeed die on a cross in a very short period of time, but he's also reminding them of Moses, whom they revered so much. That Moses and the serpents in the wilderness when the fiery serpents were biting the people, God gave him a serpent on a pole: look and live. In that day not everyone looked and lived; some simply thought it was stupid and foolish, did not do it, and they died from the bites of the serpents. And he says the same is true today: look and live. See me now and live, but you refuse to, and therefore you are going to die in your sins. Lastly, he talks to them about basically freedom from slavery. Verse thirty one. So Jesus was saying to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, then you are truly my disciples. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." And they answered him and said, "We are Abraham's descendants." And have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say you will become free? They said here at the beginning, the Jews who had believed in him. We've talked several times about there are different degrees of belief, different descriptions of belief. Probably most of these people were not converted. They believed he was a great teacher. They believed the miracles were real. They heard his messages, and they knew that no one had ever preached like he had preached, but probably very few of them had converted hearts. So he's still pleading with them that there is still time left in order for them to be saved. The Jewish religious leadership were trusting in their faithfulness and their obedience to every jot and tittle of the law as their ticket to get them into heaven, but Jesus tells them what they are lacking if they believe.

In him and his word, so they kind of changed the subject and they say, "Well, we are the children of Abraham." They played the beloved father Abraham card. They had already tried this in Matthew chapter three when John, the Baptist was preaching to them about their wicked ways, and they were like, "We are not wicked. We are children of Abraham. We have never been enslaved," and this is how blind and forgetful they were. They are overlooking the seventy years of enslavement to Babylonia. They are in the midst of an enslavement to Rome that's been going on for almost a hundred years. Then there was enslavement to Assyria, to Greece, to Syria. They're saying, "What can you free us from? We've never been enslaved." And they're just blindly refusing to look at history. Verse thirty four Jesus answered them: Truly, another one of those. This is important. Heads up. I say to you everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin. Now the slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain. So if the son sets you free, you will really be free. Being a slave is a temporary position, but being a son is forever whether it's by birth or whether it's by adoption, you are a son forever. Abraham understood freedom from sin by faith. He had believed, and God gave him great blessings because of it. He says, "But in your case, it's not that you can't understand it. It's that

you don't want to understand it. You have seen all the proof; you've seen all the evidences, and yet you ignore them." I can set you free from sin and its penalty, but you must let me do it. Jesus never forces His salvation on anyone.

But it is a free gift, and you must accept it. You must have a willing heart in order to be saved. Verse thirty seven: He says, 'I know you are Abraham's descendants, yet you are seeking to kill me because my word has no place in you. I speak of the things which I have seen with my father, and therefore you also do the things which you have heard from your father.' He says, 'I know exactly who you are.' He says, 'I read your minds, I read your hearts. I hear what you whisper behind my back. I hear what you are thinking in your heads,' and he says, 'I know that you want to kill me.' But I obey my Father God, and your willful disobedience is—you are obeying your father Satan. Verse thirty-nine: And they answered him and said to him, 'Abraham is our father,' and Jesus said to them, 'If you are Abraham's children.'

Do the deeds of Abraham. But as it is, you are seeking to kill me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God. And this Abraham did not do. Abraham heard God, Abraham believed God and God counted it his righteousness to him. Jesus goes on, 'You are doing the deeds of your father.' And they said to him, 'We are not born as a result of sexual immorality. We have one Father.' God, Jesus says, 'Well, if you really were morally and spiritually God's Abraham's children, then you would believe as Abraham did. You would worship me as Abraham did.' But he said, 'You are not morally or spiritually Abraham's children. You are only Abraham's children by birth, not spiritual birth.' He said instead you want to kill me. And he said all I have done is share with you the same truth.

That my heavenly Father shared with Abraham. Abraham believed, you have not. He says, actually you are doing the deeds of your father, Satan, Lucifer, Beelzebub. Like him your hearts are lifted up with pride. You lie, you cheat, you oppress the poor, you plot murder. All of these things are things that come from Satan your father. And now they say out loud what they've already implied once before. When you can't explain something, you just deny that it exists. So they're basically saying, God would not have an illegitimate son. You were born out of wedlock, so you could not possibly be the Son of God. Notice, as you read through these verses, where they're naming off all their great pride in being children of Abraham, that Jesus is very careful to distinguish between two things here.

In verse 37, they talked about the seed of Abraham. And in verse 39, they talked about the children of Abraham. The seed of Abraham are his physical descendants, the Jews. He was the father of the Jewish nation. So yes, these Jewish leaders are the seed of Abraham. They are descended from Abraham. But the children of Abraham are his spiritual children. They are those who have accepted Jesus as Abraham did. These religious hypocrites that are plotting to kill Jesus were children of Abraham by seed only, physically born as Jews. Their hearts were as far removed from God as they possibly could be. The Jews who had believed were spiritual descendants of Abraham. They were children of Abraham. They were strong in their faith; they were doing the things of God just as Abraham had done. Jesus continues on in verse 42:

And Jesus said to them, 'If God were your Father, you would love Me. For I came forth from God and am here. For I have not even come on My own, but He sent Me. He the Heavenly Father.' Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot listen to My word. It's not that you cannot hear it, but you don't want to hear it. If you were the real children of Abraham, your lives would give evidence of it. But instead of loving Me, you're trying to kill Me. And God has sent Me to you, and you won't even listen to what I am saying. Verse 44: You are of your father, the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and he does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him.

Whenever he tells whatever he tells, it is a lie. He speaks from his own nature because he is a liar and the father of lies. All of these are descriptions of Satan. He was prideful, he was a liar, he was the father of murder. Children so often imitate things they see their fathers do for good or for bad. He says this is true of you: you are doing the things that your father has done: lie, murder. He said it's been there since the beginning of mankind. He says here that Satan is a murderer, and he's possibly thinking about two different things here. First of all, when Satan in the form of the serpent slithered into the garden and confronted Eve and Adam, he did spiritual

murder; he destroyed that personal relationship that they had with God, and sin entered into the world and has lasted forever.

But secondly, he's also talking about the motivating force behind murder, the force that led Cain to kill Abel. It was jealousy. So actually both are true: that Satan caused both spiritual murder and he caused both physical murder. He is the father of murder. Verse 45: But because I say the truth, you do not believe me. Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe me? The one who is of God hears the word of God. For this reason, you do not hear them because you are not of God. He says, by your own choice, you have chosen to be blind, to be deaf to the things of God. And remember, these were not drunkards, wife beaters, gamblers. These were the religious elite. They were the epitome of morality. They prayed long and loud in public places. They tithed generously and made sure everyone knew that they did. They wore scriptures on their forehead and on their wrists, but they were counterfeit Christians. They were not the real thing. Second Timothy 3:5 talked about counterfeit Christians. Timothy describes them like this: 'Holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power.' Avoid such people as these. Verse forty eight, and the Jews answered and said to him, 'Do we not rightly say that you are a Samaritan, and you have a demon?' And Jesus answered, 'I do not have a demon. On the contrary, I honor my Father and you dishonor me. But I am not seeking my glory. There is one who seeks it and judges.' They bring out a racial slur here: A Samaritan. The Samaritans were half breeds; they were part Jew part Gentile.

The Jewish elite, of course, despised the Samaritans. You remember that was pretty much the point of Jesus' story about the Good Samaritan, that even the Jewish priest walked to the other side of the street rather than to help this poor Samaritan who had been attacked. The Jewish elite thought they were from Abraham only; that there was no mixed blood in them. They could not possibly be Samaritans. If you remember, the Pharisees prayed that no Samaritans would be resurrected with them. He talks about a demon here. He says they've already ascribed Jesus' power to the power of Satan when, indeed, it was the power of the Holy Spirit that enabled him to do these things.

But he has told them that they were the children of Satan, not him. So basically, he's saying, 'Who's right, you or me?' Notice that Jesus never attempts to justify himself to these religious hypocrites. He simply states the fact. Anybody in here old enough to remember Sergeant Friday on Dragnet? Just the facts, ma'am. That's what Jesus is saying here: 'I am not arguing with you; I am simply telling you the facts as they exist.' He does not perform miracles and signs for his own glory. He does them to glorify His heavenly Father. He says, You fail to recognize Me, so you dishonor God. We are one and the same. He said, You claim you would never dishonor God, but by not recognizing Me, you are indeed dishonoring God. He said, We could argue this all day. God is going to be the ultimate Judge. He will vindicate Me in that day and he will condemn you. You can count on it!

Verse 51, truly, heads up. This is important. I say to you if anyone follows my word he will never see death. The Jews said to him, now, as we know that you have a demon, Abraham died the prophets as well. And yet, you say, if anyone follows my word, he will never taste of death. You are not greater than our father Abraham are you? The prophets died too whom do you make yourself out to be? Never see death. We never will see spiritual death, that second death that the Bible speaks of: separation from God for all eternity, torment in the lake of fire. If we hear the words of Jesus, if we believe them, if we receive Him as Lord and Savior, then when physical death comes what do we see? We see the Son of God standing at the right hand of the Father to receive us to welcome us home.

Even Paul wrote about this in Acts chapter seven, verse fifty five. This was at the stoning of Stephen, an event that not only was Paul a witness of, Paul was a consenter to it. So speaking of Stephen's death, he says, But Stephen, being full of the Holy Spirit, looked intently into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. This is what we will see when we die. We will see Jesus standing at the right hand of God to welcome us home. Death is our servant, not our enemy. God sends us death, but it's to usher His children into the

presence of their Lord and Savior. Now they have all the proof they need to prove that He is demon possessed. Everybody dies, even Abraham and the prophets. You certainly aren't greater than any of them, are you? Who do you think you are anyhow? They simply cannot see that he is speaking of spiritual things. They're hung up on the physical. They talk about, You cannot be greater than Abraham. And yes, He can be. He is. He is God. He created Abraham. He chose Abraham to be the nation, the leader of this nation of chosen people. So yes, he is definitely greater than Abraham. Verse 54, Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say he is our God. And you have not come to him, but I know him. And if I say that I do not know him, I will be a liar just like you. And I do know him and I follow his word." First of all he talks about glorifying himself. He says "I do not do that." All honor, all power, all glory comes from God. And I give it all back to him. He says, 'For me to glorify myself would be meaningless. It all the glory goes to the Father.' He talks about knowing Him. He says, 'Inherently knowing Him, something that comes from deep within you, to recognize something is true, to recognize that it is valuable.' But then there's knowing Him intuitively. We'd call it a gut feeling. It doesn't come from reasoning, it doesn't come from data collection or instruction. It is just something that deep within your heart you know it's true. So you can learn about him inherently by studying his word, reading what the scriptures say about him. You can know him intuitively when the Spirit touches your heart and opens your heart and mind to him. You do not know him. The idea is to experience it firsthand.

Observe and come to a conclusion that Jesus says, 'You have seen me for two plus years and still you do not accept me, and you cannot see God in me.' Verse fifty six He goes back to Abraham. He said, 'Your father Abraham was overjoyed that he would see my day, and he saw it and rejoiced.' Your father physical relationship only; they were strictly physical children of Abraham far removed from Abraham spiritually. He says he saw it, and he saw it through eyes of faith. That God gave him some wonderful, marvelous experiences that were pointing to future events that were going to take place. Abraham saw them, he experienced them, and he believed in them. Five events, particularly in his life: salvation through the Messiah, and all the promises that God made to Abraham about how the nations would be blessed through him. There was a picture of Jesus' miraculous birth in the miraculous birth of Isaac when Abraham was 100, Sarah was 90. The picture of the Calvary, Jesus offering himself up as the perfect sacrifice for sin. He saw that on Mount Moriah when he went to offer up his only son as a sacrifice to God. He saw pictures of the priestly ministry of Jesus when he met Melchizedek coming back from the wars and tithed to this king of peace. Lastly, the marriage of the Lamb and the Church, the bride. He saw that in the perfect bride for Isaac in Rebecca. So God sent him some wonderful experiences of showing him what the future was going to be like for the children of God. Verse fifty seven And so, the Jews said to him, 'You are not yet fifty years old and yet you have seen Abraham.' And Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly I say to you before Abraham was there it is again I am.'

They did not want to, they could not see the truth right in front of them. They are blinded with prejudice, they're blinded with rage. Literally Jesus says to them, "Before Abraham came into being, I am." I was there when Abraham came into being. I am older than Abraham. I existed before Abraham. I created him. I chose him to be your father. So yes. I am greater than Abraham. Verse fifty nine, and therefore they picked up stones to throw at him. But Jesus hid himself and left the temple grounds. Stoning was the punishment for blasphemy, and that's what they had decided they're going to accuse Jesus with, and they were both judges and executioners. Except, they couldn't find him; he had simply vanished again. Some of the older texts say, "And so he simply passed by." It was literally like he was there.

And they could not see him. Because Jesus is the light of the world, he sees us as we really are. But he can also shine that light of the world on us to give us hope. It is a light to light the way; it leads us to the Savior. It can redeem us. As the song says, 'What a mighty God we serve that He can use His light in this way.' For all of us, you have your handout sheet there. And as we've talked about before, we're going to begin looking at America two hundred and fifty how faith has played such an important part in the American historical story. Today, we're

going to talk about the dignity of human life. Their names were the founding fathers. There weren't many of them; there were dozens of them. They were political leaders. They were statesmen. They were the ones that led the American Revolution. They secured our independence from England. They set up the United States government. Most notable among them, possibly George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, John Jay, a name you may not know. He was the first justice of the Supreme Court. But in the Declaration of Independence, the Founding Fathers wrote this:

Everyone has an inalienable right, such as life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We Americans believe that this is our land, and we send our brave military around the world to defend the rights of those where it is threatened. Our morals and our values are meaningless if we do not give ultimate respect to both the born and the unborn. So right there in the Declaration of Independence they wrote of the dignity of human life. And where did they get the idea of this dignity of human life? Of course, it came from Scripture. Scripture teaches us to have great respect for the preservation of human life. In Exodus 20:13, the Bible says, "Thou shalt not kill." In Matthew 22:39, the Bible says, "Love thy neighbor as thyself." There is great dignity to human life and it begins with God's Word.

Let's pray before we go. Father, thank you for the day. Thank you for the word. Thank you, Lord, that we live in a country where we are free, where we do preserve the dignity of human life. Bless us now as we go this week, Lord, that we would be humble servants and bold witnesses for you. For we pray it joyously in your name. Amen.

## JOHN CHAPTER EIGHT

Light and Liberty

Take a Ways

Light and Dark (Vss 1-20)

Heaven and Earth ) Vss 21=30)

Honor and Dishonor (Vss 48-59)

What did Jesus write in the sand ?

Perhaps some of the sins of the accusers ?

Perhaps a reminder that His God wrote their beloved Law with His finger ?

Jeremiah 17:13 – those who forsake the Lord are “written in the dust” ?

Have you noticed the religious hypocrites always brought women to Jesus ?

They had no standing or rights according to them

But notice how kindly and respectfully Jesus treated each of them

**CHARACTERISTICS OF COUNTERFEIT CHRISTIANS**

Will not give place to the Word of God

Trust in fleshly things – works, position, rituals

Hate Christians and seek to harm them

Hate Christ and all that He stands for

Blinded to the Word of God

Love lies more than the truth

**THE DIGNITY OF HUMAN LIFE**

Scripture teaches the great importance of respect and preservation of human life.

The Declaration of Independence the Founding Fathers wrote:

Everyone has an unalienable right such as life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness,  
We Americans believe this for our land, but we send our brave military people around the world  
to defend the rights of those who are threatened.

Our morals and our values are meaningless if we do not give ultimate respect to both the born  
and the unborn.

Exodus 20:13 – ‘Thou shalt not kill’  
Matthew 22:39 – “Love thy neighbor as thyself”