

## **I AM — ENCOUNTERING THE IDENTITY OF JESUS**

### **The Light that Reveals**

#### **Recap: The Case John is Presenting**

John writes his Gospel like a **courtroom testimony**.

Witnesses testify. Evidence is presented. Claims are made

Every piece of testimony leads to one question:

**Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God?**

#### **John 20:31**

“These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

#### **John’s Case Establishes Two Things**

##### **1. Jesus is Unique**

*(Monogenēs — the one and only Son)*

##### **2. The Way to Sonship**

Follow the **“I AM”**

Know the Son → Know the Father → Receive life

#### **John 1:12**

“To all who did receive him, he gave them the right to be children of God, to those who believe in his name.”

#### **Last Week’s Claim**

##### **“I Am the Bread of Life”**

Jesus reveals that: The hunger of the human heart is not satisfied by striving, but by believing in the Son.

#### **John 6:29**

“This is the work of God — that you believe in the one he has sent.”

#### **John 6:63**

“The Spirit is the one who gives life. The flesh doesn’t help at all.”

True life does not come through:

- human effort
- personal striving
- the work of our hands

Life comes through **faith in Jesus**.

#### **The Tension of Faith**

Jesus does not promise an easy life.

#### **Matthew 10:35–36**

Conflict and division may come.

But Jesus promises something greater:

#### **John 16:33**

“In me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world.”

Our daily question becomes: **Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God?**

## The Human Questions

Many people wrestle with questions like:

- What do I do in the midst of suffering?
- Why do bad things happen?
- Why does life feel chaotic?
- Why does the world feel confusing?

## A Key Truth

**Confusion produces fear. Fear enslaves us.**

But Jesus promises freedom.

### John 8:31–32

“If you continue in my word... you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

### John 8:36

“If the Son sets you free, you really will be free.”

## The Claim of Jesus: “I Am the Light of the World”

(John 7–9)

## The Context

### The Feast of Tabernacles (*John 7*)

This feast remembered Israel’s **wilderness journey**.

God provided:

- manna for hunger
- water from the rock
- a pillar of fire to guide them

### Daily Ceremonies

Water poured at the altar

→ remembering God’s provision

Large lamps lit in the temple courts

→ remembering the **pillar of fire**

For **seven days** the city celebrated.

The **eighth day** was a solemn assembly representing **a new beginning**.

## Chaos in Jerusalem

The city is full of debate about Jesus.

Some say: “He is a good man.”

Others say: “He deceives the people.”

The leaders want to arrest Him. Even they are divided.

**Nicodemus asks: “Does our law judge a man without first hearing him?”**

Anyone who openly followed Jesus risked **expulsion from the synagogue**.

The atmosphere was filled with:

- confusion
- division
- fear

## **In the Chaos, Jesus Speaks**

### **John 7:37–38**

“If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.”

Jesus speaks of the **Spirit who gives life**.

The same Spirit who hovered over creation’s chaos.

Then Jesus declares:

### **John 8:12**

“I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

## **The Genesis Connection**

### **Genesis 1:1–4**

The earth was:

- formless
- empty
- covered in darkness

Then God spoke: “Let there be light.”

**God separated light from darkness.**

Now Jesus stands in a confused world and says:

**“I am the light.”**

The light that first pushed back darkness in creation is now standing among us. (*The Word became flesh*)

## **The Two Trials (John 8–9)**

When Jesus makes this claim, the leaders challenge Him.

They question the validity of His testimony.

John then provides **evidence**.

## **Exhibit A – The Blind Man (John 9)**

Jesus encounters a man blind from birth.

Jesus repeats His claim:

### **John 9:5**

“As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

Jesus heals the man.

### **John 9:6**

Mud placed on his eyes → he washes → he sees.

## What Light Does

Light allows us to:

- see
- find direction
- experience revelation

## The Trial of the Blind Man

The healed man is brought before the Pharisees.

A trial unfolds:

- questioning
- witnesses
- testimony

## The Blind Man's Growing Faith

First statement:

### John 9:11

"The **man** called Jesus..."

Second statement:

### John 9:17

"He is a **prophet**."

Final testimony:

### John 9:33

"If this man were not **from God**, he wouldn't be able to do anything."

Because of his testimony, he is **cast out of the synagogue**.

## The Blind Man Meets Jesus

### John 9:35–38

Jesus finds him.

The man responds:

"Lord, I believe." He worships Jesus.

**Proskyneō** - To kneel in reverence; To kiss the hand in honor

## The Verdict

### John 9:39

"I came into this world for **judgment** in order that those who do not see will see and those who do see will become blind."

The light does two things:

- reveals truth
- exposes blindness

The presence of Jesus forces a decision.

**Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God?**

## **The Promise of Sight**

### **Matthew 5:8**

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”

## **The Returning Question**

In the courtroom of John’s Gospel:

Witnesses testify. Evidence is presented. The reader must decide

**Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God?**

## **What the Light of the World Means**

Jesus is not merely someone to observe.

He is someone to:

- submit to
- honor
- follow

### **Psalm 119:105**

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

Jesus does not promise that darkness disappears. He promises something better.

Those who follow Him:

**“will never walk in darkness.”**

## **The Invitation of Psalm 2**

### **Psalm 2:12 (ESV)**

Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

## **Key Truth**

**The light of the world is not just something to observe. It is someone to follow.**

Those who follow Jesus will not walk in darkness because **the light now leads them.**