

Text: John 8: 1- 36

- I. Jesus Turns the Light on Hypocrisy (8:1-12)
  - a. This passage shows an attempt by the Pharisees to entrap Jesus
  - b. The Mount of Olives—a place to which Jesus retreated (vs 1)
  - c. Early in the morning, Jesus went into the temple and taught (vs 2)
  - d. The religious leaders brought to Jesus a woman caught in adultery and set her in the midst (vs 3)
    - i. Identify the ethical dilemmas in this scenario (vs 5-6).
      1. They said, testing Him, “Now Moses in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. Nut what do you say
      2. In being compassionate to the woman, would Jesus contradict what the law of Moses said?
      3. In being legal, Jesus could have not only agreed with them but asked for the adulterous man to be brought forth also and stone the both of them.
        - a. According to Lev 20:10
        - b. “The man who commits adultery with another man’s wife, he who commits adultery with his neighbor’s wife, the adulterer and the adulteress, shall surely be put to death.”
      4. In being right or righteous, Jesus could have explicitly called out their patriarchal hypocrisy of only bringing the woman
  - e. Instead Jesus stooped down and write on the ground with His finger, as though he did hear.
    - i. This is a marvelous picture of the Logos of God who stooped down from his heavenly perch and wrote in the earth realm first in His humanity and then in his spoken word now found in his written word of Scripture
  - f. They continued asking and he proclaims, “He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.” And again, he stooped down and wrote on the ground (vs 7-8).

- g. Convicted, One by one they went out, starting with the oldest, even to the last. And Jesus was left alone with the woman standing in the midst. (vss 9)
  - h. Jesus asked the woman where are your accusers, has no one accused you? She responded no one. And Jesus : Neither do I condemn you, go and sin no more.” (vs 11)
    - i. Marvelous of grace and truth confronting the law.
    - ii. The law in imperfect hand will judge some sins greater than others.
    - iii. The law in imperfect hands will revel in shaming and blaming.
    - iv. But Jesus did not condemn the law but allowed truth to convict the hearts of the men.
  - i. We then learn the heart of Jesus approach: “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” (vs 12)
    - i. The 2<sup>nd</sup> of Jesus self-revelations
    - ii. The world is in darkness apart from the light of the Lord
  - j. At the heart of hypocrisy is a denial of truth—putting on a false front and believing or feeling something else inside. Or its espousing one thing and acting another way.
- II. Jesus Defends His Self-Witness (vss 13-20)
- a. The Pharisees claimed that Jesus could not bear witness of himself—that one person witnessing on their behalf was not valid testimony.
  - b. Jesus gives an argument of why his witness is valid:
    - i. My witness is true because I know where I came from and where I am going (vs 14)
    - ii. The law says that the witness of two is true (vs 17): Jesus makes One and the Father makes two (vs 18)
    - iii. He taught openly in temple and no one laid hands on Him, for *his hour had not yet come.* (vs 20)
- III. Jesus Predicts His Departure (vss 21-30)
- a. Jesus declares He was going to be going away. (vs 21)
  - b. This promoted the Jews to ask if he was going to kill himself (vs 22)
  - c. Resurfacing of themes from earlier discourses (vss 22-30)
    - i. “From above” vs “of this world” (See John 3)

- ii. You will die in your sins if you do not believe that I am He
- iii. He who sent me is true
- iv. I always do those things that please Him (the Father) the One who sent me (vs 29)
- v. Many believed (vs 30)

IV. The Truth Shall Make You Free (vss 31-36)

- a. Truth is mentioned in this chapter 11 different times in addition to the image of light as one of the central characteristics of Jesus' identity is an image of truth).
- b. Truth – from the Greek word *aletheia*; derived from a compound a (negative) and *lanthanos* ( to be hidden, to escape notice). *Aletheia* is the opposite of fictitious, feigned, or false. It denotes:
  - i. Veracity
  - ii. Reality
  - iii. Accuracy
  - iv. Integrity
  - v. Sincerity
  - vi. Dependability
  - vii. Propriety (appropriateness)
- c. Truth is critical for the Believer, especially living in a truth-denying world among truth denying people.
- d. In John 4—God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. There's a type of worship that takes us into the Presence of God and opens our heart to truth—the reality of God and pushes us into integrity.
- e. In John 8:31—Jesus said, “If you abide in My word you are my disciples and you shall know or experience the truth and the truth shall make you free”
  - i. Abiding in God's word—cultivates an experience that enables you to experience truth and that truth is liberating and freeing.
  - ii. And if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.” (vs 36)
- f. Application: Beware of the 4Ds
  - i. The burden and bondage of lies and untruths
  - ii. The freedom of truth

iii. Beware of the 4Ds

1. Denial of truth. Watch people or causes that urge or tempt you to deny truth and especially truth of your experience with God grounded in the Word.
2. Defending Lies. The enemy will assault us with situations that will tempt us to defend lies based on your affiliation with a group. That's why you need the discernment of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.
3. Distraction from evidence—false arguments or drama that take your eye off the real issue
4. Distortion of the truth—watch how you frame what you say in attempt to be accepted or to prove a point

Next week: John 8:37-59 The source of lies and the source of truth