

## John 8:12-30 – The Light of the World

*Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”<sup>13</sup> So the Pharisees said to him, “You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true.”<sup>14</sup> Jesus answered, “Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for 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.<sup>15</sup> You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one.<sup>16</sup> Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me.<sup>17</sup> In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true.<sup>18</sup> I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me.”<sup>19</sup> They said to him therefore, “Where is your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.”<sup>20</sup> These words he spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple; but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.*

*<sup>21</sup> So he said to them again, “I am going away, and you will seek me, and you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come.”<sup>22</sup> So the Jews said, “Will he kill himself, since he says, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come’?”<sup>23</sup> He said to them, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.<sup>24</sup> I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins.”<sup>25</sup> So they said to him, “Who are you?” Jesus said to them, “Just what I have been telling you from the beginning.<sup>26</sup> I have much to say about you and much to judge, but he who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him.”<sup>27</sup> They did not understand that he had been speaking to them about the Father.<sup>28</sup> So Jesus said to them, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.<sup>29</sup> 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.”<sup>30</sup> As he was saying these things, many believed in him.*

1. What stands out to you as the main point of this passage? Through your reading and reflecting on this passage and the message on Sunday, what has God been laying on your heart?

*Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy. (Proverbs 28:13)*

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)*

*And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. (James 5:15-16)*

2. Do you have rhythms of asking God to bring your sin to light, confessing it to Him (and perhaps to other people), turning from it, and receiving His grace and healing? Do you think this is an important part of discipleship? Why or why not?

3. How can you/we integrate this practice into our personal disciplines, friendships, and community groups in a way that reflects the heart of Jesus?

*In him was life, and the life was the light of men. (John 1:4)*

*And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. (John 17:3)*

*but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:31)*

4. Why do you think John so strongly emphasises that the life Jesus offers is found *in Him*? What is the difference between searching for life in things that Jesus can give us vs. finding life in knowing Jesus personally and intimately?

*“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14-16)*

*I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. (John 17:15-18)*

5. What has God given you (gifts, resources, status, relationships, opportunities, skills, etc) to use during your short time in this world? How might you be viewing these things from a temporal, earthly perspective? What would it mean to view them with an eternal perspective in the light of Jesus?
6. What are the spaces that God has sent you to carry the mantle of light in the world? How can you practically, in big or small, obvious or more subtle ways, start to shine the light of the glory of Jesus in the places God has sent you?
7. How is God asking you to respond to His word – First, in confession and prayer? And then in action empowered by God’s Spirit?

Spend time praying together as a group as the Holy Spirit has prompted you through the truth of this passage.