

## John 8:12-30 SS Notes, June 22, 2008

- √ Let's look at some "big picture" ideas this morning. (writing: Mene Mene Tekel Upharsin - judgment)
  - Ø What is God's ultimate vision for us and this physical universe? Rev 21:1-5; 22:1-5
  - Ø Do you ever think of such things? Sometimes the darkness (evil, ignorance, rebellion, etc.) of this world just drives me there for solace.
  - Ø I was reflecting on the total self-absorption of both sides of our political stage and the darkness thereof and it depressed me.
  - Ø People walk in darkness. We live in a dark world. People seek frantically for the truth without the facility to find it. That's what Jesus came to give: the truth.
  - Ø Interesting concept or metaphor "walking in the light" or "walking in darkness." Wonder why it's not lightness?
  - Ø Prov 2:13; 4:19; Isa 5:20; Rom 1:21; Eph 4:18; Ecc 2:14; John 12:35 – yet they love the darkness: John 3:19.
  - Ø Acts 26:18; Col 1:13; 1 Pet 2:9
  - Ø It's our job to spread the truth – light – for we are the light of the world.
- √ (Read passage) v.12-30
  - Ø After our break in flow from 7:53-8:11, we come back to Jesus at the Feast of Tabernacles where everything was set up to remind the Israelites of their forefathers' time in the wilderness.
    - § They lived temporarily in little booths mad of tree limbs to remind them of the tents in the wilderness
    - § Each day water from the pool of Siloam was poured out over the alter to remind them of God providing water from the rock.
    - § Each evening they lit these huge candelabras (menorahs probably, 2-4 of them) in the Court of Women, which pushed light into the sky like search lights, symbolizing the pillar of fire they followed in the wilderness.
    - § Just as Jesus linked himself with the water, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me." So he linked himself with the candle lighting, by saying he was the "Light of the World."
- √ v.12
  - Ø "Light of the World." What does he mean by that? (John 1:4-5; 9:5; 12:46)
  - Ø Just what he says, if you follow me you will not walk in darkness (evil, confusion, ignorance, error), but you will have light (illumination, revelation, spark, truth, abundance) that gives life.
    - § He said it another way: "I am the way, the truth, the life." The way (where we go to), the truth (reality), and the life (spark, energy, purpose).
  - Ø This is not some politician promise like those we hear so frequently today.
  - Ø When the world hurls 1,000's of explanations at you all the time, the way you re-ground is to listen to the word, the truth of God.
  - Ø What holds people back from coming to the light? (Eph 4:18; John 3:19) Summed up as ignorance and pride.
    - § The pillars of Satan's kingdom are ignorance and error. They can be knocked down, but the pillar of a man, his pride, must go as well. What we see in the next verses is a lot of ignorance and pride.
  - Ø Ignorance – holds many in darkness. Ignorance – never heard of Jesus, heard incorrect things about Jesus, or don't understand the truth about reality – task of us the church – we are also the light of the world (Matt 5:14)
- √ v.13-18
  - Ø Chapters 5-8 are very similar in structure and argument. They dismiss Jesus based on a legal technicality here: only one witness, him! That seems reasonable if you weren't looking for the truth, and you were ignorant about all the facts.
  - Ø Jesus very patiently walks them through that argument:
    - § Don't jump to conclusions just yet.
    - § I know more about me than you do. I know who I am and where I am from. Ever notice how solid and confident people are who know who they are? Can stand assaults and accusations. They stand up to oppression. That should be especially present in Christians assaulted by Satan and the world.
    - § "You reject my claims because you only judge by appearances. You do not know me at all. Your judgment is superficial." (7:24) Are we guilty too?
    - § Lastly, there ARE 2 witnesses, me and my Father. And His (the Father's) witness was:
      - Great signs and wonders (John 3:1-2)
      - Inner conviction in the heart of believers (7:46 – "Never has a man spoken the way this man speaks.")
      - Fulfillment of the Scriptures.

- § Unbelief is never convinced regardless of the evidence – must be born again!
- ✓ v.19-20
    - Ø The invisible hand of God the Father restrained them. He is speaking openly in a very public place in the temple and is not concerned – amazing! (Court of Women, Treasury, 13 trumpet shaped vessels to receive offerings, 13<sup>th</sup> for women)
    - Ø Matt 11:27 – You just don’t know God.
  - ✓ v.21-23
    - Ø I’m going back to the Father but you will not join me there.
    - Ø You have to read the Pharisees’ words sarcastically. They believed those who committed suicide went to the deepest place in Hades where they would never go of course. Pride.
    - Ø “Your thinking is limited to this world – listen to me.”
  - ✓ v.24-27
    - Ø If we “die in our sins” where shall we spend eternity? Not with Christ I would guess.
    - Ø Did Jesus teach and preach hell-fire and damnation? Is it true? Is Hell a real place?
    - Ø Unless what? You believe I am! The “He” is not in the Greek. Mine is italicized indicating addition for clarity. Ex 3:14 in Septuagint – ego eimi. Same here. Clear?
    - Ø “Who are you?” Probably more like, “Who do you think you are?”
    - Ø Jesus says, “same as I’ve been telling you all along from the start.”
    - Ø “There is more than enough here to condemn you, but I have more, truth given to me by the one who sent me.”
    - Ø They still didn’t connect the dots! How blind we are without God! Do you see it all around you?
  - ✓ v.28-29
    - Ø There is coming a day when you will lift up the Son of man and then you will know that “I am”, and that I give you the truth of God.
    - Ø But I am not afraid of that time because He that sent me is with me always. It comforted Jesus; it should comfort us.
  - ✓ v.30
    - Ø BAM! The same sun that hardens clay also melts wax!
    - Ø The cross, the sacrifice the trust and faith melted some of their hearts.
    - Ø Matt 27:54 “Truly this was the Son of God.”
- 

### High Points – Chapter 8

- ✓ Jesus came from the Father, from Heaven – states this many times and many ways.
  - ✓ Jesus was telling them the truth, reality as it really is.
  - ✓ Jesus tells them they do not know God because they do not believe and understand the One He sent, Him.
  - ✓ Jesus told them that if they followed Him, abided in His words, honored Him, listened to Him, then they would be free, have the light of life (know truth), go to the Father with Him, do the deeds of Abraham.
  - ✓ Jesus takes the time to address all their “finer”, misguided arguments: legal, demon, freedom/slavery, following God versus following the devil.
  - ✓ What does Jesus mean when he says “you shall die in your sins,” or “you shall be free,” or “shall never see death,” or “never taste death”?
- 

### Application

- ✓ Unbelievers are held captive; they are trapped by sin, ignorance, pride, and error.
- ✓ God opens the ears, eyes, mind, heart – man – to the truth by His Spirit and His Word.
- ✓ “Unbelief” results in God’s wrath and His wrath is eternal (John 3:36; Matt 25:46).
- ✓ As Jesus called Himself the “light of the world,” He also calls us “the light of the world” (Matt 5:13-16) So we are to imitate Christ and give men the truth.
- ✓ Death means separation. Life means connection. That applies to physical, spiritual, and eternal.
- ✓ Darkness vs. Light ð Error/Lies vs. Truth.