

## John 8:12-20

Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, “I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.”

<sup>13</sup>The Pharisees replied, “You are making those claims about yourself! Such testimony is not valid.”

<sup>14</sup>Jesus told them, “These claims are valid even though I make them about myself. For I know where I came from and where I am going, but you don’t know this about me. <sup>15</sup>You judge me by human standards, but I do not judge anyone. <sup>16</sup>And if I did, my judgment would be correct in every respect because I am not alone. The Father who sent me is with me. <sup>17</sup>Your own law says that if two people agree about something, their witness is accepted as fact. <sup>18</sup>I am one witness, and my Father who sent me is the other.”

<sup>19</sup>“Where is your father?” they asked.

Jesus answered, “Since you don’t know who I am, you don’t know who my Father is. If you knew me, you would also know my Father.” <sup>20</sup>Jesus made these statements while he was teaching in the section of the Temple known as the Treasury. But he was not arrested, because his time had not yet come.

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## Background

Verse 20 says that Jesus taught in the “Treasury” section of the Temple. This is one of several Temple courts: the outer Court of the Gentiles, the Court of the Women (where the treasury and collection boxes were also located), the Court of Israel (for Jewish men), the Court of the Priests, and finally the Temple itself, with only the High Priest entering the Holy of Holies once a year.

The Treasury area would be the same place where the widow gave her two mites (Mark 12, Luke 21). Lamps and candles in this court symbolized the pillar of fire that guided Israel in the wilderness. In this setting Jesus declared, “*I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness...*” This is another example of His situational evangelism.

## Teaching Points

### 1. Jesus is the Light of the world.

Jesus declared, “*I am the light of the world,*” in John 8:12 and John 9:5. What did He mean by this?

- The world is spiritually dark, filled with sin and ignorance.

- Jesus reveals **everyone's** need for God's righteousness.
- He guides those who follow Him, offering the "light of life."
- His light extends to the entire world, not just the Jewish people.
- This claim asserts His deity. Only God could say this.

1 John 1:5 affirms God is light without darkness, and Isaiah 49:6 predicted the Messiah would be "a light to the Gentiles." Thus, Jesus' claim identifies Him as the Messiah and Son of God. He is the true Light of the world.

## 2. The judgment of Christ is the judgment of God.

The Pharisees challenged Jesus' claim, arguing His testimony was invalid since it lacked a second witness (v13). Jesus replied that His heavenly Father testified on His behalf (v18) and that He came not to judge but to save (John 8:15; 12:47). And if He *did* judge, His judgment would be true because He judges in perfect unity with the Father.

Jesus' claim that He is the Light of the world, from Heaven, God's Son, and the true judge, forces us into a critical choice. Either He was God or a liar. He cannot be merely "a good man" in history. This truth challenges us personally, as Jesus' words are divine, and He will be the ultimate Judge of all.

## Application

### 1. Is Jesus the Light of your world?

Verse 12 applies to both unbelievers and believers. If you're not a Christian, you're walking in spiritual darkness, blind to the truth. But coming to Jesus brings the Light of life, giving purpose and direction.

For Christians, Jesus should be the light of your world - your #1 priority. If things like possessions, success, pleasure, or wrong relationships are more important than the Lord, then you're walking in darkness and will not experience true joy. The solution is to turn back, follow Jesus, and let Him lead you. He is the true Light of life.