



THE GOSPEL OF JOHN: LESSON 9 *"COME AND SEE"*

In our chapter last week, Jesus clearly revealed Himself in the Temple during the Feast of Tabernacles. His statements caused much confusion and division among the people. Whispers of "who is this man Jesus?" floated through the air as people heard Him teach. The religious leaders began to openly go after Him. Jesus' time had not yet come, however, so their attempts were futile. Jesus was in complete control of the situation.

In chapter 8, Jesus now deals with the major issues of sin and judgment. The woman caught in adultery is a good illustration of John 7:24, which talks about judging by appearance. Jesus deals wisely and graciously with the woman. This chapter also shows us a trap that is laid in hopes of catching Jesus. The leaders were trying to nail Him any way they could, but Jesus doesn't fall for it. He not only shuts them up, He uses the situation as an opportunity to teach them more about Himself. I pray that as you study this week, Jesus will be the Light of your life and you will discover what it means to be free indeed!

First Day

1. Read John 8:1-59. Answer the questions for each section:
 - A. Verses 1-11. Observe and list the facts. What is the main point of this section? How does it relate to chapter 7? List any repeated words or phrases.

B. Verses 12-30. Observe and list the facts. What is the main point of this section? Who is Jesus talking to? How did they respond? How does this section relate to verses 1-11?

C. Verses 31-59. Observe and list the facts. In your own words, explain the reason the people were confused. What would you say is the main point? How did the people respond to Jesus' words?

2. Describe the setting of this chapter from verses 1-2.

3. What challenges you today as you read this chapter? What convicts you?

This ends our lesson for today. Jesus is the Light of the World ... that's a "**Reason to Rejoice**"! Without Him we would be walking in utter darkness. (Sends a chill down your spine, doesn't it?)

Memory Verse of the Week: "Jesus spoke to them again, saying, 'I am the Light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.'" John 8:12

Second Day

Study your memory verse. Is Jesus the Light of your world?

1. Read John 8:1-11. Jesus spent the night on the Mount of Olives, which He occasionally did (Luke 21:37, 22:39; John 18:1). How is this an example of Matthew 8:20?

Verse 20 tells us that Jesus was teaching in the treasury, which was in the court of women. In the treasury were thirteen trumpet-shaped receptacles for contributions. These receptacles were small at the top and bell-shaped at the bottom, each requiring a different offering.

The Pharisees and Scribes drag in this poor, embarrassed, humiliated woman. It's hard to imagine what she must have felt like. They bust in, interrupting Jesus' teaching.

2. What was she being accused of? (Verse 6 shows us the motive of their hearts.) What trap were they trying to set for Jesus? Explain His predicament.

3. Do you think they set a trap for the woman too? Why or why not?

4. Do we know what Jesus was writing in the sand? Speculate a bit as a group.

5. How did the people respond?

Jesus finds Himself in a very interesting situation. If He chooses to condemn the woman, His reputation for compassion and love for the poor and the sinners would be questioned. If He let her go free, He would be coming against the Law. They really thought they had Him. It seems like the woman had also been caught in a trap, simply to be used as bait. Interesting that the man she was caught with was not being condemned. The Law stated that both offenders were to be stoned publicly (Deuteronomy 22:22-24). Where did he go? Her right to a formal trial was also ignored. The religious leaders were willing to entrap and execute this poor woman in order to catch Jesus. Amazing.

6. Jesus makes a powerful comment, then stoops down and writes something in the sand that convicts their hearts. What does He say?

Deuteronomy 17:7 states that the witnesses of the act were supposed to be the first to stone the offender. It seems like Jesus challenges them to do just that, but adds one other requirement.

7. Read and explain Matthew 7:1-5.

8. Why did the accusers all leave?

9. What did Jesus say to the woman?

10. Was Jesus trying to excuse her sin? (Read Leviticus 20:10 and Matthew 5:32.) What point was Jesus trying to make?

Some say it appears that Jesus looked the other way, allowing the seriousness of the sin to go unpunished. Jesus did identify her act as sin, but offers her forgiveness and mercy. She calls Him "Lord," which seems to indicate that she came to believe His words. We know that repentance must come before forgiveness, so Jesus must have seen that in her heart, even though John doesn't record it for us. He was not playing down the severity of this sin, but forgiving her and setting her free to live a new lifestyle. Later in our chapter He deals with the topic of freedom, which this story clearly illustrates.

11. Jesus offers the same freedom today. We have been set free to turn our back on old habits or lifestyles that once enslaved us. He also tells us to "Go and sin no more." Since you accepted Christ, are you changed? Are you living a new lifestyle? Can people tell a difference? (Are there any old habits that you are still enslaved to?)
12. How quick are you to judge people and cast the first stone? Are you quick to judge and slow to show mercy, or are you the opposite? How can you be more like Jesus in this area? What "logs" need to come out of your own eyes?
13. How does remembering our own sin help us show more mercy to others?

That's it for today. I pray that we will be slow to judge the sin of others. Not that we would look the other way and excuse it, but that we wouldn't be so quick to point out the sin and faults of others. Forgiveness is a big "**Reason to Rejoice,**" isn't it? We all want it, but we don't always want to give it.

Third Day

Work on your memory verse. It's a powerful one!

1. Read John 8:12-31. What does Jesus claim to be in verse 12?

Remember that this is still during the Feast of Tabernacles. They had a great ceremony to illuminate the Temple, which took place in the treasury. In the center of the treasury were four great candelabra. Some believe that they were as high as the Temple walls. In his book, Behold the Lamb, Kent Hughes described it like this: "At the top of these golden candelabra were great bowls that held sixty-five liters of oil. A ladder extended to each candelabrum, and when evening came, healthy young priests carried the oil to the top where they lighted the protruding wicks. The resulting flames illumined the whole temple and could be seen in all of Jerusalem. It was here before these immense extinguished torches that Jesus raised His voice above the crowd and proclaimed, 'I am the Light of the World.' The Old Testament indicates that in the coming age of Messiah the Lord will be a Light for His people."

2. Why does Jesus call Himself the Light of the World?
3. I heard once that verse 12 is the key of the contented life. What does that mean?
4. What part does obedience play, according to verse 12?

5. Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:14-16 that we are also to be lights in this world. Read these verses. What is our role as a light?
(Are you doing it?)

Jesus begins a tennis match with the religious leaders. After He makes His statement, they come right back, reminding Him that according to their law, any truth needs to be validated by two witnesses. Jesus smacks the ball right back.

6. Who does Jesus offer as His second witness?
7. How did they respond to that?

Jesus is speaking to them about their spiritual state, but they continue to look at it in a physical sense. They just don't get it.

8. What great truth does Jesus offer in verse 19?
9. To what is Jesus referring to in verses 21-24?

In verse 28, Jesus refers to the coming crucifixion, predicting the hour when He will be lifted up on the cross. He also reminds them that God the Father will always be with Him.

10. What did Jesus always do, according to verse 29?
11. Read what Paul said in 2 Corinthians 5:9-10. What should be our goal and aim in life?

12. Are you doing your best to please Him as a:
- a. wife?
 - b. mother?
 - c. friend?
- (How can you improve?)

13. Did you please Him today in all you've done?

Meditate on that last question. Make it your aim to please Him in all you do tomorrow. And the next day. And the next ...

Fourth Day

Work on your verse.

1. Read John 8:30-59. Did anyone believe Jesus?
2. What makes someone a disciple of Christ?
3. How would you define freedom?

The word "abide" means a constant state; a permanence. We are called to live in and obey His Word. If we do, we will then know the Truth, and that Truth will set us free.

4. If we are not willing to obey His Word, are we a disciple?
5. What are we free from? (Read Romans 6:14, 18, 22)

The Jews got their feathers ruffled when Jesus implied that they were in bondage. They claimed they had never been in bondage to anyone, which is funny because they had been in captivity under Egypt, Babylon, and Assyria. Perhaps they meant that no one had ever told them how they should worship God, even when they were in bondage.

We are set free from fear, anxiety, guilt, anger, bitterness, hatred, and emotions, just to name a few things. We are no longer condemned, we are free to leave our life of sin and become all God wants us to be.

6. How can we become a slave of sin? (vs 34)

7. Is there anything you need to be freed from? How can you experience this freedom?

Jesus challenges their heritage. He points out that if they were really Abraham's children, they would believe Him. They were not imitating Abraham's faith at all. Abraham's obedience proved his faith. Jesus had already said in John 1:13 that we are born into God's family "not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

8. Read John 8:41. What do you think they were implying?

9. According to Jesus, if God was their Father, what would they be doing?

10. Who does Jesus say is their father? How do they react to this?

Charles Swindoll said this: "Although the physical lineage of the Pharisees can be traced back to Abraham, their spiritual lineage goes all the way back to the devil himself. In their family tree hid the serpent of old, who had enticed them away from the true God with the seductive apple of religiosity. But under the devil's clerical garb, he is both a murderer and a liar. And, like father, like son, the Pharisees were a mirrored reflection, twisting the truth about Jesus (vs 48) and plotting to kill Him (vs 40).

11. Those who belong to God hear His Words. His Word is like a seed that grows, bringing life. How does God's Word make us grow?

This chapter makes it very plain; you are either a child of God or a child of the devil. If you believe in Jesus you will live; if you don't, you will die in your sins. It can't be any clearer. I pray that you have made that choice and are following after Jesus. If you are, make sure you are abiding in His Word and doing the things that please Him.

Fifth Day

Write out your verse from memory.

1. Read John 8:31-59 again. What was the Jew's reaction to Jesus' words in verse 48? Why?
2. How does Jesus honor the Father?

Again, the Jews think that Jesus is talking about the physical, when He keeps pointing them to the spiritual. They are upset, so they resort to name calling. (Remember, they didn't like Samaritans.) Jesus doesn't retaliate by calling them names. Instead, He goes on to commit His reputation to the Father.

3. What claim does Jesus make in verse 51? (What has He conquered?)

I read once that Christians don't pass from life to death; they pass from this life to an even greater one. There is a way to escape death and eternal damnation. The way is Jesus.

4. The word "honor" in verse 54 can mean "glorify." What was Jesus hinting at in verse 54 when He said that "His Father is the one that glorifies Him"?

The Jews made fun of Jesus, asking Him how He could possibly have seen Abraham because he had been dead for years. Jesus makes an astounding statement.

5. Who does Jesus claim to be in verse 58?

Wow! Jesus has already said He is the Bread of Life and the Light of the World. Now He simply says, "**I AM.**" He is claiming to be equal with God, because this is a word that is used throughout the Old Testament to describe the character of God. He also claims to have always existed. The Jews would consider this blasphemy, which is punishable by stoning, which, by the way, is exactly what they tried to do.

6. Jesus says He is the "I AM." He is not the "I WAS" or the "I WILL BE." Why is this significant? How does this truth encourage you and offer you hope?

7. The "I AM" means He is the source of everything. He says He is life, He is Truth, He is Peace, He is Joy, He is Hope, He is our Counselor, He is our shelter, He is our refuge. Which of these is especially meaningful to you today? Why?

8. In his book, Following Christ, the Man of God, Charles Swindoll gives five reasons why the Pharisees rejected Jesus as the Savior, as well as His words. List the verses in this chapter that best illustrates each point.
 - A. Lack of knowledge: (ignorance)

 - B. Lack of perception:

 - C. Lack of appropriation: (Read Romans 10:17 for help)

 - D. Lack of desire:

 - E. Lack of humility:

9. What specific truth in this chapter specifically ministered to your heart?

10. What did you learn about Jesus in this chapter?