

The Light of Life

John 7:53-8:30

Key Verse: 8:12

1. Read 7:53-8:2. Where does this event take place? Where had Jesus been the night before? (See 7:53 and before.) Why were the people gathered in the temple? Read verses 3-6a. What was Jesus doing?(2) Who did the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees bring to Jesus? Where did they make her stand? Why? What did these men announce about the woman? What did they know about the law? (Lev 20:10; Dt 22:20-21)
2. What question did they ask Jesus? What was their motive in asking this question? In what respects was this question a trap? Why were they so eager to trap Jesus? Read verses 6b-8. What did Jesus do? Why did he not answer at first? When they kept on questioning him, what did he do and say? Why? What did his words mean?
3. Read verse 9. Was anyone prepared to throw the first stone? Why? What did all of the woman's accusers do? What does this show about them? What is Jesus teaching here? Read verses 10-11. What did Jesus then ask the woman? Why did he let her go without condemning her? How did Jesus instruct this woman? Do you think she obeyed him? What does this teach us about Jesus?
4. Read verse 12. In what respect did Jesus show himself to be the light of the world in his encounter with the Pharisees in verses 1-11? What does it mean to you to "walk in darkness," to "have the light of life"? What does it mean to follow Jesus? Read verses 13-20. Where and with whom did this conversation take place? How did the Pharisees challenge Jesus? What gives validity to Jesus' testimony?
5. What is the difference between Jesus and the Jews in the matter of judgment? (15,16) Why is Jesus qualified to judge? Does he judge? Why or why not? Do the Jews judge? Whom did they judge? Are they qualified? Why or why not? What do the Jews not know? (14,19,25) Read verses 20-30. What claims does Jesus make about himself? (12,16,19,29) What are the consequences of rejecting Jesus and denying his claims about himself? (21,23-24,26-27,28)
6. Note the contrast between light and darkness. What do you think is the nature of the darkness? Why are the Jews (Pharisees) so ignorant? What is the nature of their sin? Of their ignorance? What is the significance of Jesus' saying, "I am he"? (24,28-footnote) How can one know the Father? (19) Why do Jesus' words have authority? (14,28,29) What does he mean when he says, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man?" How can one know the Son? (28,12) How do we follow Jesus and have the light of life?