

Who is God – the light of the world.

John 8:1-20

Do you have any phobias or fears?

R) Matthew, “I’m scared of the dark” Me: “no way, our study today is about where we can find light”

Q) Can any of you tell me anything interesting about the story of the woman caught in adultery?

R) This story is generally considered not part of the original contents of John's gospel and so in most bibles as footnote marks it out as unlikely to be inspired scripture. It was not found in the original manuscripts and so was likely added in by scribes later in response to oral tradition. We don't have the original copies of the gospels and so we rebuild them with thousands of manuscripts throughout time. The fact that certain verses are part of scholarly debate does not pull in to question any of the doctrine of scripture.

With the understanding that this story is likely not “God-inspired”, let's not write it off completely and consider what we can learn from this text.

Q) How was this question to Jesus from the Pharisees a trap for him?

R) If he discounted the law then he would have lost accountability with the Jews and discarded the law which he still valued (Romans 3:31) but if he allowed the women to be stoned then his compassion and forgiveness would have come into question.

Q) What do you think we can learn from this story? Is this message repeated in Scripture?

R) Jesus in Matthew 7 cautions against judging hypocritically.

Q) Why does the world need a light?

R) The world is in darkness. It is full of sin and evil. (John 3:16) We see sickness and disasters all around the world.

Q) Why do YOU need a light?

R) “Because we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23)

“And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.” (John 3:19-20)

We are sinful human beings, who hide in the darkness in our sinful ways, we need the illuminating light of Jesus to bring salvation and sanctification.

Q) What's the difference between salvation and sanctification?

R) Salvation is being saved from our sin and eternal punishment. We are sanctified at salvation ("We have been sanctified by the body of Jesus Christ once for all. " Hebrews 10:10) but is also a progressive progress where we grow to be more and more like Jesus. "18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen." (2 Peter 3:18)

Q) What does Jesus mean when he says HE is the light?

R) One meaning is that he is the Messiah and that he has come to save people from their sins and bring them into the light, which is himself. [What other reasons do you guys get?]

Q) Why is important that we follow him?

R) Because it means we remain in his light. His light will be a guide, "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." (Psalm 119:105). We can trust that Jesus and his word will act as a guide through the difficulties of life. We can lean on him in every circumstance.

Q) Why would the Jews understand the reference of following the light? Where else have Gods people followed the light in Scripture?

R) By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. ²² Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people. (Exodus 13:21-22)

Q) What is the promise that Jesus makes after declaring he is the light of the world and what does it mean?

R) He promises that those who follow him will have the light of life. He is promising new life. "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." (Romans 6:4)

Q) What do you think is being said in verses 13-20?

R) [...]

Q) What Jesus's believable as true?

1) His intimate union of the son with the farther guaranteed the truth of his witness. The father and son witnessed harmoniously together regarding the identity of the son.

2) If he knows where he came from and where he's going then perhaps he has the answer to the big questions.

Q) What does the last part of verse 20 teach us about gods plans?

R) He's sovereign.

Q) How does being children of the light of the world (if we're Christians) affect the way we witness to said world?

R) Matthew 5:14 (You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.)

We are called to shine as light to God's love and a witness to his grace. We should not hide but boldly profess the hope that we have in him, bringing glory to his name.

Hallelujah. Praise the Lord. Amen.

PRAY