

WEEK 19

Jesus Teaches Truth

Friends lets remember to study today in the light of the theme of the book of John which is found in John 20: 30-31.

Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His Name.

What are the CENTRAL TRUTHS Jesus taught in John CHAPTER 8

1. Jesus is God
2. Unless you believe Jesus is God, you will die in your sin.

Think with me now, how does this relate to the theme of the book?

John records that Jesus was teaching that He is fully God and reminds He us we must believe this truth to have eternal life. John records signs, the testimony of others and Jesus personal testimony to make his case. What is the message of this chapter?

You shall know the truth and the truth will set you free. The context of this chapter is an atmosphere of growing hostility toward Jesus, beginning the chapter with a debate with the Jewish leaders and ending with the Jews picking up stones to throw at Him.

John 7:53 Jesus had given a discourse in Jerusalem at the Feast of Tabernacles ending with hostility from the Jewish leaders and everyone went to their own home but;

John 8:1-2 Jesus spent the night on the Mt. of Olives and then early in the morning He came back to the temple

John 8:3-6 Note the purpose of the Jewish leaders for this encounter; do you see it? Their purpose is not to promote justice but to try to trap Jesus, trying to destroy His credibility. It's what we now call the politics of personal destruction. If you cannot refute the message, then attempt to destroy the person.

Here is the trap they conceived; if Jesus said the woman caught in adultery should be stoned, they could report Him to the Romans, who did not permit the Jews to carry out executions. If Jesus said she should not be stoned, they could accuse Him of violating God's law.

Notice He never answered this question; He did something unexpected; He wrote in the dirt on the ground. There have been many speculations as to what He wrote but since John did not see fit to include it, it must not be important to us. Whatever He wrote, He made the accusers very uncomfortable. He recognized their motives.

It seems they forgot something; that is; catching this woman in the act of adultery would have involved two people. They broke the law arresting her and letting him go, the law required both be put to death. Deut 22:22. In addition, the Law required the witnesses be the executioners.

John 8:7 Jesus as much as said, "if your conscience is clear about this matter of adultery, then go ahead and execute her. What a difference in our day, adultery is seen almost every day on the news, on sitcoms, computer; friends, God does not take this lightly, He has commanded against adultery, it was a capital offense in Israel. Have you believed that it's OK to be unfaithful to your spouse if you can get away with it? Be sure your sin will find you out; this is what the bible says.

These hypocrites never forgot the lesson Jesus taught them that day, I suspect they were as humiliated as the woman they brought to Jesus.

Please note, Jesus is not saying only those who are perfect and sinless may make a judgment and neither is He excusing adultery. He did not say that the woman did not sin.

John 8:8 Jesus exposed hypocrisy of the accusers in what He wrote and thus He exposed their true motives.

John 8:9-10 Jesus confronted the sinner with compassion.

Sin is horrible but sinners have been offered forgiveness in Christ. Is there any sin you struggle with now that you think cannot be forgiven? Confess, repent and sin no more.

Friends, God hates sin, be clear about it and this woman was caught sinning. But God loves sinners, that includes each of us, He loves us so

much He sent His only Son to die to take our penalty for our sin, yes, your sin and my sin. Jesus is ready to forgive any person but confession, repentance and a change of heart-change of behavior have to come first. We must have the intention to not sin again. God does not expect us to never sin again, but He does expect that our life-style be not sinful. With God's help we can accept Jesus' forgiveness and stop a sinful lifestyle by choice, then we will be free to not sin again. The freedom Jesus offers is freedom from guilt and the freedom to say no to sin.

Let me stress again that Jesus has not made light of the sin of adultery. He is the one who taught that the marriage vow can be broken by a look, Matt 5:28. No one ever spoke more strongly about the sanctity of the marriage vow, "what God had joined together, let no man separate"

John 8:12 Jesus then began to teach the truth about Himself. With all our understanding, technology and advances, darkness still covers the earth and its people. In John 3 Jesus said "men love the darkness because their deeds are evil".

Jesus says He is the only remedy for this condition.

Friends, the grand and wonderful secret of knowing God is to draw near to Him through Jesus.

What was the Pharisees response? They attacked Him

John 8:13

John 8:14 He continued teaching truths, they did not know where He came from, although He had told them over and over. And He keeps establishing the truth that the Father sent Him.

Then He states contrasts between Himself and the Pharisees and the first one is;

John 8:15 they judge according to the flesh (or by human standards) He had already told them to not judge by appearance. By contrast to their judgment, His judgment is true because He looks at the heart. He validates that His judgment is not His of Himself alone.

John 8:17-18, why does He emphasize this? The law said there had to be 2 witnesses to truth, and He validated His truth that He had 2 witnesses.

The Jews did not understand that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, lived in each other and were with each other. Even though He came from the Father, He was not separate from the Father. The Father and the Holy Spirit made two witnesses. Notice He is claiming to be God, He cannot be accepted as a “good man”

John 8:19 They were saying, bring out this Father so we can question Him. Jesus makes it clear here that to know Jesus is to know the Father. Observe this amazing claim; He is claiming equality with the Father. Just think about these claims He is making about Himself. He is not leaving the door open for us to say, “He was just a good man”

He has said He is
 Light of the world
 His Witness is true
 His Judgment is true
 To Know Jesus is to know the Father.

And remember our book theme, these things were written that you might believe

John 8:20 He was standing the treasury, near the Court of the Sanhedrin and no one had seized Him. Why is it that the Pharisees have not seized Him?

His hour had not yet come
 Eventually He will plainly state that His hour has come
 What truth does this reveal about God and Jesus?
 We seen the Sovereignty of God in the life of Jesus

Our next truth, the fate of those who fail to follow Him.

John 8:21 He is going away, they cannot come, what did they think He meant? Their fatal mistake was to reject Jesus. Eventually everyone who rejects Jesus in this life will be unable to go where He is, in heaven.

John 8:22 they did not understand He was speaking of His death and His return to the Father, they could not follow Him there.

John 8:23 He did not respond to their questions, they were set in their ways and did not want the truth.

What is Jesus clearly stating? His Deity, something we all must believe even if we do not understand.

John 8:24 How do you know that He means by this that He is God? Just as God told Moses in Exodus 3:14 that His name is I AM, Jesus said the same Name applies to Him. What does I am mean? "I have been what I have been, I am what I am, I will be what I will be". YAHWEY or English "Jehovah".

What is Jesus saying we must do? We must believe He is God or die in our sins because He is the only remedy for our sin.

John 8:25-27 This is a reminder that the Father has sent Him and He is speaking the Father's message. They just don't get it. When will they know who He is?

John 8:28 when He is crucified, they will know
They knew exactly what He meant when He referred to being lifted up, they knew He meant crucifixion. That they would realize Who He is did not mean they would believe in Him.

John 8:29 Is it your goal to always do what pleases God or are you just interested in pleasing yourself? If your desire is to please God, it will make a big difference in the choices you make and the way you live your life. If you are getting your life advice from Dr. Phil or Oprah, you will not hear anything there about pleasing God. The current of our society is flowing all around self, pleasing self, doing it my way. Friends, this way of thinking has consequences and you will finally reap a harvest of sorrow.

John 8:30 Notice there are always some, maybe very few, who believe in Him.