

# STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

## LESSON 9 - JOHN CHAPTER 8

### ASSIGNMENT

READ John Chapter 8.

MEMORIZE John 8:12,

*“Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”*

MEMORIZE John 8:36,

*“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”*

### KEY WORDS

The key words in this chapter are: **darkness** and **light**, **bondage** and **freedom**.

### OUTLINE OF JOHN CHAPTER 8

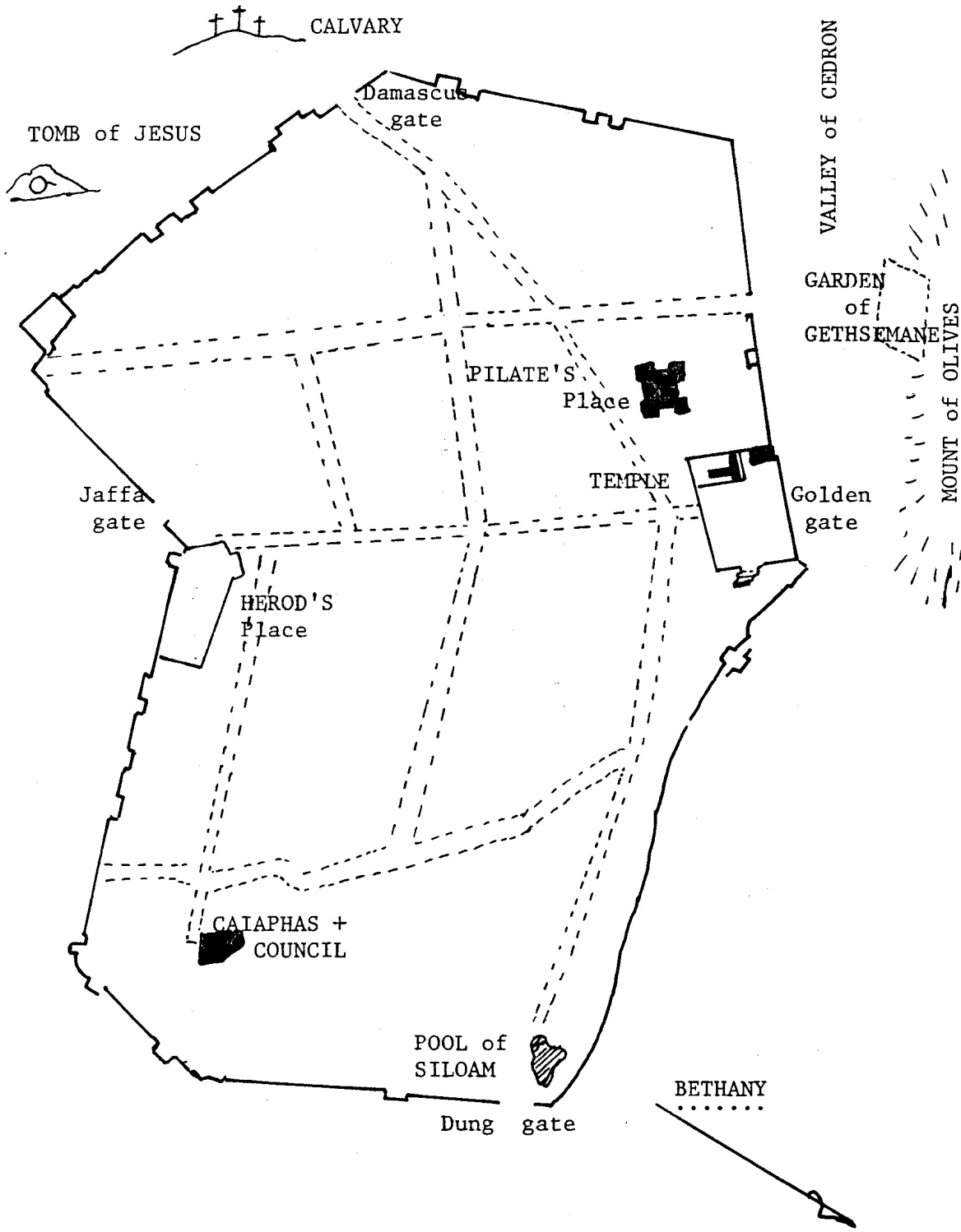
- A. The woman who did a sex sin, John 8:1-11.
- B. Jesus, the Light of the world, John 8:12-13.
- C. Jesus witnesses for Himself, John 8:14-20.
- D. Jesus speaks of going away, John 8:21-30.
- E. Bondage or freedom, John 8:31-36.
- F. Whose children? John 8:37-47.
- G. Does Jesus have an evil spirit or is He God? John 8:48-59.

### LOOKING AT JOHN CHAPTER 8

Verse 53 of chapter 7 and verse 1 of chapter 8 are close together. The men from the council went to their homes. Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. (See the map on the next page.) The Mount of Olives was outside the city of Jerusalem.

Did Jesus have a home to go to? Matthew 8:20

Most likely Jesus prayed to God while he was on this mountain.



The next day Jesus came back to the temple.

What time of the day did Jesus come? John 8:2

In chapter 7 Jesus “stood and cried” in the temple. He “cried” or called out a very important message.



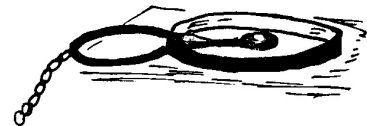
What was the message? John 7:37,38

In chapter 8 Jesus sat down and taught. He sat like the Jewish teachers sat to teach. This was the way the Jewish leaders taught the people in those days.

**A. The woman who did a sex sin, John 8:1-11.**

**1. The trap.**

A man goes to catch muskrats. How does he set a trap? Does he leave the trap so all can see it? You say, “NO.” When a man sets a trap, he tries to hide it. He sets it so the muskrat gets into the trap.



The scribes and Pharisees wanted to set a trap for Jesus. They found a woman who did a sex sin. They brought this woman to Jesus. They did not bring the man to Jesus. The scribes and Pharisees should have brought the man and the woman to the Council.

They wanted to trap Jesus. These religious leaders said to Jesus,

*“Moses in the law commanded us, \_\_\_\_\_, but what sayest Thou?”*

What was the commandment God gave to Moses? Leviticus 20:10

Was only the woman to be punished?

Who else should be punished?

The religious leaders knew the Roman law would not allow a person to be stoned for such a thing. If Jesus said that she should be stoned, He would be in trouble with the Roman law. If He said that she should not be stoned, He would be breaking the law of Moses, Leviticus 20:10-13. This would put Jesus in trouble with the Jewish people.

What answer did Jesus give these religious leaders?

What did they do?

## 2. Forgiven.

Verse 9 says,

*"their conscience convicted them."*

These men knew that they too had sinned. Maybe they sinned in a different way, but they had sinned.

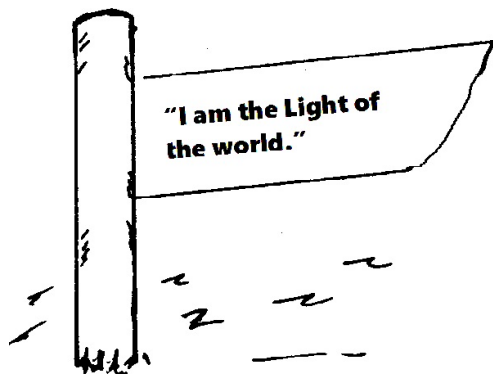


Jesus had been writing in the sand. When He stood up, only the woman was there. What did Jesus say to the woman? John 8:10

The woman answered Jesus, *"No man, Lord."*

What did Jesus say to her?

Jesus could see into her life. He knew she had sinned. He knew that she repented. That is why He could say that He did not condemn her. That which she did was sin. Jesus said so in Matthew 5:27-32. Jesus told the woman *"sin no more."*

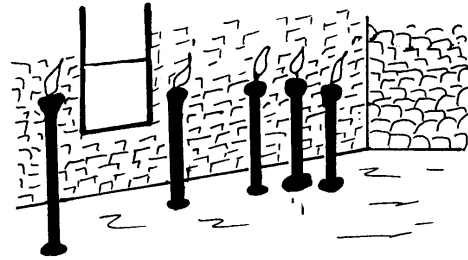


We have two truths to remember here. One is, **be sure our lives are clean** before we find fault with someone else, Matthew 7:4,5. The other is, **Jesus will forgive those who truly repent.**

**B. Jesus, the Light of the world, - second "I am",** John 8:12-13.

All of chapter 8 takes place the day after the feast of tabernacles.

Lamps were lit every evening during the feast of tabernacles. These lamps were in the part of the temple called “court of women.” This court of women was also called “the treasury.” This feast was a happy feast. (W. Smith, A Dictionary of the Bible, p. 668,713.)



What did Jesus say to the people?

John 8:12

The lights in the treasury gave light for the people. Because of this they could see even in the evening. They could be happy in the light. Jesus said that He was a greater Light. He was the Light of the world. Those who would follow Him would be able to see where they were going. Their lives would become the light of the world. The beginning words of John tell us that Jesus is the Light, John 1:4-9. In Matthew 5:14-16 Jesus speaks about us being the light of the world.

If Jesus is the Light of the world, how are we to be the light of the world?

Philippians 2:15.

**C. Jesus witnesses for Himself, John 8:14-20.**

**1. Words of Jesus.**

The Pharisees said that the words of Jesus were not true. They said, He talked about Himself, so His words could not be true. Jesus showed them that His words were true.

<b>Jesus</b>	<b>Pharisees</b>
<b>1) knew where He came from.</b>	<b>1) did not know where Jesus came from.</b>
<b>2) knew where He was going.</b>	<b>2) did not know where Jesus was going.</b>
<b>3) knew the Father.</b>	<b>3) did not know the Father.</b>

**2. Words of the Father.**

Jesus told these men that His Father speaks for Him. How did His Father speak for Him?

Matthew 3:16,17

Matthew 17:1-8

John 12:28,29

The priests and Pharisees had been waiting to arrest Jesus.

Why did they not arrest Him? John 8:20

They could not take Jesus until it was time for Him to die.

### 3. A truth to remember.

Verse 19 shows us a truth we need to remember. Often we hear people say they know God. They talk about doing the work of God. Yet, they know so little about Jesus Christ. We see over and over in the Scriptures that no person really can know God without knowing Jesus Christ, John 14:5-9; John 12:45. In the beginning words of the book we saw how Jesus came to show us the Father, John 1:18.

#### D. Jesus speaks of going away, John 8:21-30.

In verses 21-30 Jesus speaks of His coming death. He speaks of His going to heaven.

But Jesus said that these Pharisees could not go to heaven.

*“Whither I go, ye cannot come.”*

Why could they not go to heaven?

John 8:24

What did Jesus mean by saying, *“I am he”*?

John 8:24,28

He said,

**JESUS IS  
THE CHRIST  
THE ONE SENT FROM GOD  
THE HOLY ONE**

*"I AM the Christ."*

*Jesus was the One sent from God, the Holy One.*

He used the words "*I am*" which are used for God.

When would these people understand that Jesus was the Christ?

John 8:28

He talked about the time He would die on the cross.

**E. Bondage or freedom, John 8:31-36.**

Verse 30 says many believed on Jesus. Then Jesus spoke to those who believed on Him. He told them how they could be His **real** disciples. He told them how they could be **really** free.

How would these people be real disciples of Jesus?

John 8:31

Jesus said, "If you really believe you will keep on learning the Word of God. You will obey the Word of God." Further, they would know the truth and the truth would make them free.

Did the Jews think they were in bondage? John 8:33

To be in bondage means to be a slave. It means someone else tells you what to do. When was the nation of Israel ruled by someone else?

Exodus 1:8-13

2 Kings 17:6

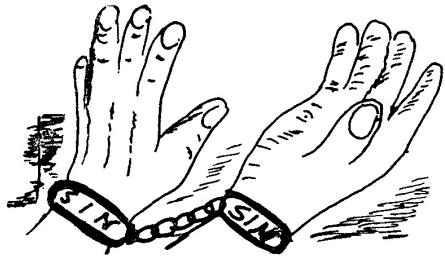
2 Kings 24:14,15

When Jesus was speaking to them were they ruled by someone else?

Luke 2:1

By whom?

**The Jews were also in bondage to sin.**



The Jews were not only ruled by other countries (in bondage), but they were also in bondage to something else.

What was it?

Did they know they were in bondage to \_\_\_\_\_ ?  
John 8:34

Do people today know they are in bondage to sin?

Satan is really smart. He has caused people to believe sin is freedom. They think they are not free unless they can do sinful things. Yet people suffer so much because of sin. Satan makes them think they are not free when they obey God, Genesis 3:5.

### **Jesus gives us freedom from sin.**

#### **1) Punishment for sin.**

Romans 6:23 says,

*“For the wages of sin is death.”*

Also Ezekiel 18:4,20 says,

*“The soul that sinneth it shall die.”*

**Jesus Sets Free  
From:  
punishment of sin  
power of sin  
presence of sin**

When we believe in Jesus, we belong to Jesus, John 1:12. Jesus sets us free from the punishment of sin. Read Romans 8:1,2.

#### **2) Power of sin.**

Jesus also sets us free from the power of sin, Romans 6:6. This is why Jesus said,

*“ . . . ye shall be free indeed.”* John 8:36.

This means that they will be really free. So many people do not want to go to hell. They ask Jesus to save them from going to hell. Yet, they do not know they can be set free from sin. It is sin which makes people go to hell. To be set free from the power of sin is true freedom.

#### **3) Presence of sin.**

As long as we live in this world we have sin all around us. Jesus prayed that we



will be kept from sinning, John 17:15. When Jesus comes to take us to heaven, we will live in a place where there is no sin, Revelation 21:27.

**F. Whose children? John 8:37-47.**

**Children of Abraham.**

The Jews said Abraham was their father. This was right. He was the one they came from. However, spiritually speaking, they did not act like his children. Abraham believed God. Abraham obeyed God. The Jews did not obey God. They fought against God. They even wanted to kill Jesus Christ. Jesus told them in plain words that they were doing the work of their father.

The Jews said \_\_\_\_\_ was their father.

Jesus said that the \_\_\_\_\_ was their father, John 8:44.

Why did Jesus say this?

**Children of God - children of the devil.**

Let us look at God and at the devil.

<b>God</b>	<b>The devil</b>
<b>Is truth, John 1:14</b>	<b>Is a liar, John 8:44</b>
<b>Is true, John 8:26</b>	<b>No truth in him.</b>
<b>Is full of grace, John 1:14</b>	<b>Is a murderer, John 8:44</b>
<b>Is Light, John 8:12</b>	<b>Is darkness, John 3:20</b>
<b>Is love, John 3:16</b>	

*“He that is of God heareth God's words, ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God,” John 8:47.*

Those who belong to God will obey God. Their lives would show the things of God. These things are: truth, grace, light, love, life. Those who belong to the devil show the things of the devil. These things are: lies, hatred, murder.

How can we belong to God?

John 1:12

We should look at our own lives. Whose things are we showing?

To whom do we belong?

Why could the Jews not understand what Jesus was teaching?

John 8:47

Is this true of people today?

In verse 47 we are told what a child of God will do.

What is it?

**G. Does Jesus have an evil spirit or is He God? John 8:48-59.**

**1. The Jews thought evil of Jesus.**

As we work for the Lord, someone will sooner or later tell us that we are working for the devil. This has happened several times to the writer. We do not have to be surprised. The Jews did the same thing to Jesus. They told Him that He had an evil spirit. The devil blinds the minds of men, 2 Corinthians 4:4. Even today people often believe other people who tell lies. Many people today speak evil of that which is good. Jesus told the Jews how they could know who belonged to God and who belonged to the devil.

What did the Jews say?

John 8:48

John 8:52

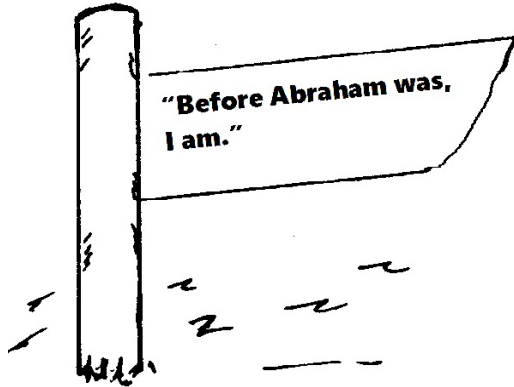
What more did the Jews try to do?

John 8:59

From what we have read “many believed.”

Did they obey the Word of God? (John 8:31,59)

## 2. Jesus, the "I am," equal with God.



We see another "I am" in this chapter. Jesus said,

*"Before Abraham was, I am."* John 8:58.

This means that Jesus as God was living before Abraham lived. He was and is and always will be. He is God.

Three things Jesus said in verses 48 to 58 show us that He is God. To be the same as God means to be equal with God.

These three things are:

- 1) (John 8:51) His Word gives everlasting life. The words of men could not do this.
- 2) (John 8:54) He is honored by His Father. God does not honor man like He honors Jesus.
- 3) (John 8:58) He lived before Abraham was born. Only God could live that long.

What did the Jews want to do to Jesus because He said these things?

Did they believe He was making Himself equal with God?

### IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER

1. Be sure our lives are clean before we find fault with someone else, John 8:7.
2. Jesus will forgive us if we truly repent of our sin, 1 John 1:9.
3. No person really can know God without knowing Jesus Christ, John 14:6,7.
4. When we have sin in our lives, it will keep us in bondage, John 8:34.

5. Jesus sets us free from:
  - 1) punishment for sin, Romans 8:1,2.
  - 2) power of sin, Romans 6:6.
  - 3) presence of sin, Revelation 21:27.
6. Jesus is equal with God.
7. Jesus is God. He was and is and always will be. John 8:58 "*I am*" before Abraham was.
8. Jesus said, "*I am the Light of the world,*" John 8:12.

### **WORDS TO LEARN**

1. act - something we do or have done.
2. allow - to let someone do something.
3. bondage - not to be free; to be a slave to someone or something.
4. commandment - law; what we are told to do.
5. condemn - to give someone over to be punished; to say someone is guilty.
6. equal - the same as another; just as good as another.
7. obey - to do what we are told to do; or not to do what we are told not to do.
8. presence - to be here or close and not somewhere else.
9. punishment - pain or loss caused for doing wrong.
10. sex - that which makes the difference between man and woman.

### **Lesson 9 - Review**

1. Were the religious leaders interested in the soul of the woman who did a sex sin?
2. Why did Jesus forgive the woman who did a sex sin?
3. What did Jesus mean when He said, "I am the Light of the world?"
4. How are we to be the light of the world?
5. Did the religious leaders believe what Jesus said about Himself?  
Why?

6. What witness did Jesus have that His words were true?
7. Can a person know God without knowing Jesus Christ?  
Why?
8. What did Jesus mean when He said, "I am he?"
9. Jesus said we are in bondage to \_\_\_\_\_ if we sin.
10. Were the Jews right when they said they were the children of Abraham?  
Why?
11. Were the Jews, who did not believe, right when they said they were the children of God? \_\_\_\_\_ Why?
12. Jesus said those who did not believe were the children of \_\_\_\_\_.
13. What are some of the things the children of God should show? \_\_\_\_\_,
14. What are some of the things the children of the devil show? \_\_\_\_\_,
15. Write out John 8:36.

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