

**“Those Who Reject the Light will Remain in Darkness!”**

John 8:12, 30 (12, 21-24)

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**I. Biblical Context**

Jesus is still in an intense controversy teaching in the temple. There is a popular debate over who does he think he is and thus began the conflict over who He is and claiming all along who he is. Jesus' validity of His testimony is being questioned by the religious right-the Pharisees. Miracles, signs and wonders have gone forth (Nicodemus, the woman at the well, paralytic, the feeding of the 5000 and the woman taken in adultery). How much more do they need!! Here he is still in conflict, even division among the disciples (6:60-71). The climatic atmosphere is intense as He continues to respond to the higher authority. Our Sunday School title for today is a precise example of those times folks will question our stance when we are trying to validate what we believe in. There are those time in our condition of existence whether it's on the job, by family, friends, church or wherever or by whoever, we are going to be challenged to prove and/or confirm where we stand as an individual. Have you ever had an identity crisis? Do you choose to be identified with people, and what they say about you?! The bottom line in this study today is trying to confirm your identity, your moral conscience and integrity that you are to stand with Jesus by your side, though you feel rejection, know that He is with you and want you to be strong and be of good courage. In Jesus' name, you are validated today (proven and confirmed) that all things are possible with him in an impossible situation. Don't miss God in all this! There are always going to be disputes along with the possibility of who and whose we are. You have to know as a believer that you are about your Father's business and know that you know that you know that Jesus' will provide you inexhaustible spiritual nourishment. Learn of His many names, means, ways and provisions. In light of it all, there is something about that name Jesus! Don't reject Him, He is the Light of the world. Don't be in the dark!

**Dispute Over Jesus' Testimony**

12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

**Dispute Over Who Jesus Is**

21 Once more Jesus said to them, “I am going away, and you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I go, you cannot come.”

22 This made the Jews ask, “Will he kill himself? Is that why he says, ‘Where I go, you cannot come’?”

23 But he continued, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.

24 I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins.”

## II. THE LESSON: Verse John 8:12

### 1. Verse 12.

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “**I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.**” Glory to God. What boldness to ascertain with a certainty on his identity! When they spoke to him, he spoke to them again, “I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life”. OMG, He is the Light of Life! The light of the world. In him was life, and that light was the life of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood (overcome it...John 1:4-5). He has the inexhaustible source of spiritual nourishment, but he was also the genuine deal... the light by which truth and falsehood could be distinguished and by which direction could be established. Perhaps when he looked at all those candles around him in the temple he used the most memorable thing he could make an analogy from. He always did this by using parables, illustrations, demonstrations, because sometimes we as believers and unbelievers just don't get it. Light brightens up things, there are no shadows. The light at the rituals we put up will be extinguished after the feast, but his light would remain. His presence, glory to God, will never leave us. Jesus will validate YOU.

When you walk through the storm, hold your head up high...walk on, walk on with Jesus. Trust him in the midst of a messy day. Let the rivers of water give you inner calm-your peace in His presence, need not be shaken by what is going on around you. Be rooted and grounded in his eternal life. When you feel stressed, disturbed, remember Jesus is with you and he is the Light that gives life. If there is darkness over a matter in your life today, surrender it to Jesus. (Discussion)

### 2. Verse 21.

Once more Jesus said to them, “I am going away, and you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I go, you cannot come.” “Once more”...Oh, what a glorious promise. A promise befitting for times like these. Once more he speaks again, addressing them...like how many times I have to remind you. As the sun is the physical light of the world, so Jesus is the spiritual light of the world. As the light of the world, Jesus exposes sin (vv. 1-11) and gives sight (9:1-7). Don't miss God in all this He is saying. I am from above; You are of this world; I am not of this world. The red letter edition of the Bible is good for showing his narrative in verses 21-24! He shows his divine destiny...a dual distinction from him and those of his opponents. Jesus said again, “I am going away, and you will look for me, and you will die in your sin (obstinate attitude, stubbornness, haters, vipers!) Where I go, you cannot come”. What a mighty

God we serve! He claims you are in this world, but I am not! To proclaim by this statement he belonged to a totally different world from that of the questioners. No wonder it pierced their hearts! Oh, what haters ---their consciences were searing! To verbally and strongly express this to the point of saying "... where I go, you cannot come". And even to say it again, "I am leaving and you are going to look for me, but you're missing God in this and are headed for a dead end. There is no way you can come with me." Whoa, what boldness to testify about, to pray that we follow Jesus, what a statement! We don't want to be headed for a dead end. No way, I want to be with Jesus. Clearly, this is an invitation to us today...repent and change your obstinate, hateful ways now, and come to me! God, forgive us as that ugly remark, response we have must be struck out. Which way are you going? It's personal, even now. (DISCUSSION).

### 3. Verse 22.

This made the Jews ask, "Will he kill himself? Is that why he says, 'Where I go, you cannot come'?" To Jesus what He was saying was natural, to them it was unnatural-something they could explain only by assuming that he belonged to the realm of the dead. He had come from the presence of God, and he asserted that only by faith could they attain his level. An insurmountable barrier separated them-unbelief (vv.23). The attitude of unbelief is not simply unwillingness to accept a statement of fact: it is resistance to the revelation of God in Christ. Not only did they repudiate his claims, they completely rejected his person. They thought he was speaking about going someplace else, not of going somewhere else! They were capable of murder and suicide because they were of this world, earthly, sensual, and devilish, but He was of another world, from heaven, and was incapable of such. Later, we see they were capable and it was confirmed when a lot was committing suicide because of famine, disasters and such. Is the present world such (floods, wars, COVID) such that you are in suicidal mode? Jesus is the answer.

### 4. Verses 23-24.

But he continued, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. 24 I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins." Boldly, Jesus continues stating four facts:

- a) "You are from below; I am from above;
- b) I am not of this world.
- c) I told you that you would die in your sins
- d) If you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins."

Jesus is from heaven. We are from the world, but NOT in the world. This statement of Jesus was not referring to hell, but to this world. We belong to God, so this is indeed an invitation again. Believe! What are you identifying with? They were so bent on Jesus giving proof; they would not receive Jesus said. Jesus came to reveal the Father and they had not received Him. When you have a testimony that Jesus is Lord of your life, some folks will not believe you much

less validate you. The “I am” was God’s designation of Himself (Ex. 3:14), Jesus was claiming to be God. Later, Jesus’ claim to be the “I AM” (v. 58) prompted the Jewish leaders to seek His life (v. 59). Let us be careful of having the markings of Phariseesism: Hand washings, fault finding, holding to traditions of men in preference to God’s Word; ceremonial washings; demanding all folks to follow outward religion; insisting on outward cleansing, though void of the inward; carrying on vain religion; rejecting and casting aside God’s laws and teaching man’s; substituting man’s religion for that of God; using religion to free anyone from parental responsibility; and using religion as a means of personal gain. Leave yourself out of these things!

### **III. LIFE APPLICATIONS**

It’s a fine line between the haters and the doers. The gospel benefits are purely on the basis of personal choice and meeting conditions that are godly (Genesis to Revelation). To remain in our Salvation, we must continue to willingly follow Jesus, deny ourselves (self-dependence, self-interests and self-pursuits); take up your daily cross, and follow Christ daily, not just for a little while. Sometimes it’s at the expense of our own conscience and refusing to do those wrongs (sins). As a believer, say it over and over again in a gentle spirit and as much as possible through the life you live. You are in this world, but not of this world. Its all about Jesus. Don’t be tied down to the mundane. Jesus is in touch with us. Don’t be like the unbelievers and live in what you see and touch. Live on godly terms. Don’t miss out on God in all this. No dead-end here. God through Jesus is telling us to have your life in Him. Those who reject the Light will remain in darkness!