

Women's Bible Study – Winter/Spring 2018
John 7-8 ~ Juli Fischer
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Confusion and Unbelief vs. Light and Truth

Chapter 7

The Feast of Booths - marks the end of the harvest, and commemorates the exodus.

1. OTHERS vs. 3 So his brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea that your disciples also may see the works you are doing. Show yourself to the world."

JESUS vs. 6 My time has not yet come, but your time is always here. The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil.

**Jesus was telling his own brothers, who did not believe in him, that he was not ready to display to the world who he was. The brothers were not hated because they were a part of the world.*

Jesus went to the feast later on and kept out of the limelight.

2. OTHERS vs. 11 The Jews were looking for him at the feast, and saying, "Where is he?" And there was much muttering about him among the people. Some said, "He is a good man," others said, "No, he is leading the people astray." No one spoke openly of him.

After Jesus went to the temple and began teaching they said,
Vs. 15. "How is it that this man has learning, when he has never studied?"

JESUS vs. 16. My teaching is not mine but his who sent me. A person who makes things up wants to make himself look good. I am sticking to the facts and honoring the one who sent me. You are not so why are you trying to kill me?

OTHERS vs. 20. "You have a demon!"

JESUS. vs. 21 I did one work, and you all marvel at it. Moses gave you circumcision and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. If on the Sabbath a man receives circumcision, so that the Law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because on the Sabbath I made a man's whole body well? Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.

3. OTHERS vs. 25. "Is not this the man whom they seek to kill? And here he is, speaking openly and they say nothing to him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is

the Christ? But we know where this man comes from, and when the Christ appears, no one will know where he comes from."

JESUS vs. 28. Yes, you think you know me and where I'm from, but that's not where I'm from. I didn't set myself up in business. My true origin is in the One who sent me, and you don't know him at all. I come from him—that's how I know him. He sent me here.

Many believed in Jesus now.

The rulers did not like this so sent men to arrest him. Jesus replied.

4. JESUS vs. 33 I will be with you a little longer, and then I am going to him who sent me. You will seek me and you will not find me. Where I am you cannot come.

OTHERS vs. 35 Where does this man intend to go that we will not find him? Does he intend to go to the Greeks? What does he mean?

At the final day of the feast.

5. JESUS. Vs. 37 If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.

OTHERS. Those in the crowd who heard these words were saying, "This has to be the Prophet." Others said, "He is the Messiah!" But others were saying, "The Messiah doesn't come from Galilee, does he? Don't the Scriptures tell us that the Messiah comes from David's line and from Bethlehem, David's village?"

The police came back to the Jewish authorities without Jesus. They could not find any fault. And Nicodemus defended Jesus to the authorities.

Chapter 8

6. OTHERS. 8:4 Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?

JESUS. vs. 7 Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her. Jesus gives the woman grace.

Another long discussion.

7. JESUS. I am the light of the world. No one who follows me stumbles around in the darkness. I provide plenty of light to live in."

OTHERS. All we have is your word on this. We need more than this to go on."

JESUS. You're right that you only have my word. But you can depend on it being true. I know where I've come from and where I go next. You don't know where I'm from or where I'm headed. You decide according to what you can see and touch. I don't make

judgments like that. You have my word and you have the word of the Father who sent me."

OTHERS. Where is this father of yours?

JESUS. You're looking right at me and you don't see me. How do you expect to see the Father? If you knew me, you would at the same time know the Father."

Jesus repeated some of his teaching.

8. JESUS. I'm 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."

OTHERS. "So, is he going to kill himself? Is that what he means by 'You can't come with me'?"

JESUS. You're tied down to the mundane; I'm in touch with what is beyond your horizons. You live in terms of what you see and touch. I'm living on other terms. I told you that you were missing God in all this. You're at a dead end. If you won't believe I am who I say I am, you're at the dead end of sins. You're missing God in your lives

OTHERS. Who are you anyway?

JESUS. What I've said from the start. I have so many things to say that concern you, judgments to make that affect you, but if you don't accept the trustworthiness of the One who commanded my words and acts, none of it matters. That is who you are questioning—not me but the One who sent me."

Jesus continued. When you raise up the Son of Man, then you will know who I am—that I'm not making this up, but speaking only what the Father taught me. The One who sent me stays with me. He doesn't abandon me. He sees how much joy I take in pleasing him." Many people decided then to believe.

Jesus then spoke to the Jews who said they believed in him.

9. JESUS. vs. 31 If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

OTHERS. vs. 32. But we're descendants of Abraham. We've never been slaves to anyone. How can you say, 'The truth will free you'?"

JESUS. I tell you most solemnly that anyone who chooses a life of sin is trapped in a dead-end life and is, in fact, a slave. A slave is a transient, who can't come and go at will. The Son, though, has an established position, the run of the house. So if the Son sets you free, you are free through and through. I know you are Abraham's descendants. But I also know that you are trying to kill me because my message hasn't yet penetrated your thick skulls. I'm talking about things I have seen while keeping company with the Father, and you just go on doing what you have heard from your father."

OTHERS. Our father is Abraham!

JESUS. If you were Abraham's children you would have been doing the things that Abraham did. And yet here you are trying to kill me, a man who has spoken to you the truth he got straight from God!

OTHERS. We're not bastards. We have a legitimate father: the one and only God."

JESUS. If God were your father," said Jesus, "you would love me, for I came from God and arrived here. I didn't come on my own. He sent me. Why can't you understand one word I say? Here's why: You can't handle it. You're from your father, the Devil, and all you want to do is please him. He was a killer from the very start. He couldn't stand the truth because there wasn't a shred of truth in him. When the Liar speaks, he makes it up out of his lying nature and fills the world with lies. I arrive on the scene, tell you the plain truth, and you refuse to have a thing to do with me. Can any one of you convict me of a single misleading word, a single sinful act? But if I'm telling the truth, why don't you believe me? Anyone on God's side listens to God's words. This is why you're not listening—because you're not on God's side."

OTHERS. That clinches it. We were right all along when we called you a Samaritan and said you were crazy—demon-possessed!"

JESUS. "I'm not crazy. I simply honor my Father, while you dishonor me. I am not trying to get anything for myself. God intends something gloriously grand here and is making the decisions that will bring it about.

OTHERS. Now we know you're crazy. Abraham died. The prophets died. And you show up saying, 'If you practice what I'm telling you, you'll never have to face death, not even a taste.' Are you greater than Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you think you are?"

JESUS. My Father, the same One you say is your Father, put me here at this time and place of splendor. You haven't recognized him in this. But I have. If I, in false modesty, said I didn't know what was going on, I would be as much of a liar as you are. But I do know, and I am doing what he says. Abraham—your 'father'—with jubilant faith looked down the corridors of history and saw my day coming. He saw it and cheered."

OTHERS. You're not even fifty years old—and Abraham saw you?"

JESUS. Before Abraham was, I AM

The general confusion and questions of these two chapters. Ramping up in each chapter.

1. **Others wanted Jesus to prove who he is vs. Jesus saying this was not the time for that. Skeptics want a sign.**

John 7: 6-8 (parts of the verses) "Don't crowd me. This isn't my time. It's your time—it's *always* your time; you have nothing to lose. The world has nothing against you, but it's up in arms against me. It's against me because I expose the evil behind its pretensions. It's not the right time for me."

Similar to "If you want me to move to Hawaii then let my cousin call me this afternoon and say the word Hawaii." We want Jesus to come on our terms and we want control.

2. Others questioned Jesus, "Who do you think you are?" vs. Jesus affirming he is from the father and does what his father speaks. Or identity challenged.

John 7: 28, 29 "Yes, you think you know me and where I'm from, but that's not where I'm from. I didn't set myself up in business. My true origin is in the One who sent me, and you don't know him at all. I come from him—that's how I know him. He sent me here."

Similar to "What are you thinking?" when we hear of a tragedy (Syria), but not with sincerity of heart but with sarcasm and anger.

3. Others complaining that Jesus does not follow the rules (or he doesn't act like I want you to) vs. Jesus saying to judge rightly. Or rule breaker or rule maker?

John 7: 21-24 Jesus said, "I did one miraculous thing a few months ago, and you're still standing around getting all upset, wondering what I'm up to. Moses prescribed circumcision—originally it came not from Moses but from his ancestors—and so you circumcise a man, dealing with one part of his body, even if it's the Sabbath. You do this in order to preserve one item in the Law of Moses. So why are you upset with me because I made a man's whole body well on the Sabbath? Don't be nitpickers; use your head—and heart!—to discern what is right, to test what is authentically right."

Similar to "Why do you let X live such an easy life and you give me all these troubles? Why do you love her more?" Why don't you follow my rules?

4. Others wanting to know, "Where is he going?" vs. Jesus saying he is going someplace they don't know about. Or living beyond the box.

John 7: 33 "I will be with you a little longer, and then I am going to him who sent me. You will seek me and you will not find me. Where I am you cannot come."

Jesus is speaking of his crucifixion, which is only 6 months away. He is anticipating being with His Father once again. But he says I am in the present. Jesus has been with Him in eternity past, is present with him as he speaks, and will be with him in eternity future.

5. Others are slaves to sin vs. the truth will set you free. Or the real emancipation proclamation.

Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 which set a few million slaves free. Jesus uses another Abraham to state that he was even before him and in Jesus we are set free.

John 8: 34-38. Jesus said, "I tell you most solemnly that anyone who chooses a life of sin is trapped in a dead-end life and is, in fact, a slave. A slave is a transient, who can't come and go at will. The Son, though, has an established position, the run of the house. So if the Son sets you free, you are free through and through. I know you are Abraham's descendants. But I also know that you are trying to kill me because my message hasn't yet penetrated your thick skulls. I'm talking about things I have seen while keeping company with the Father, and you just go on doing what you have heard from your father."

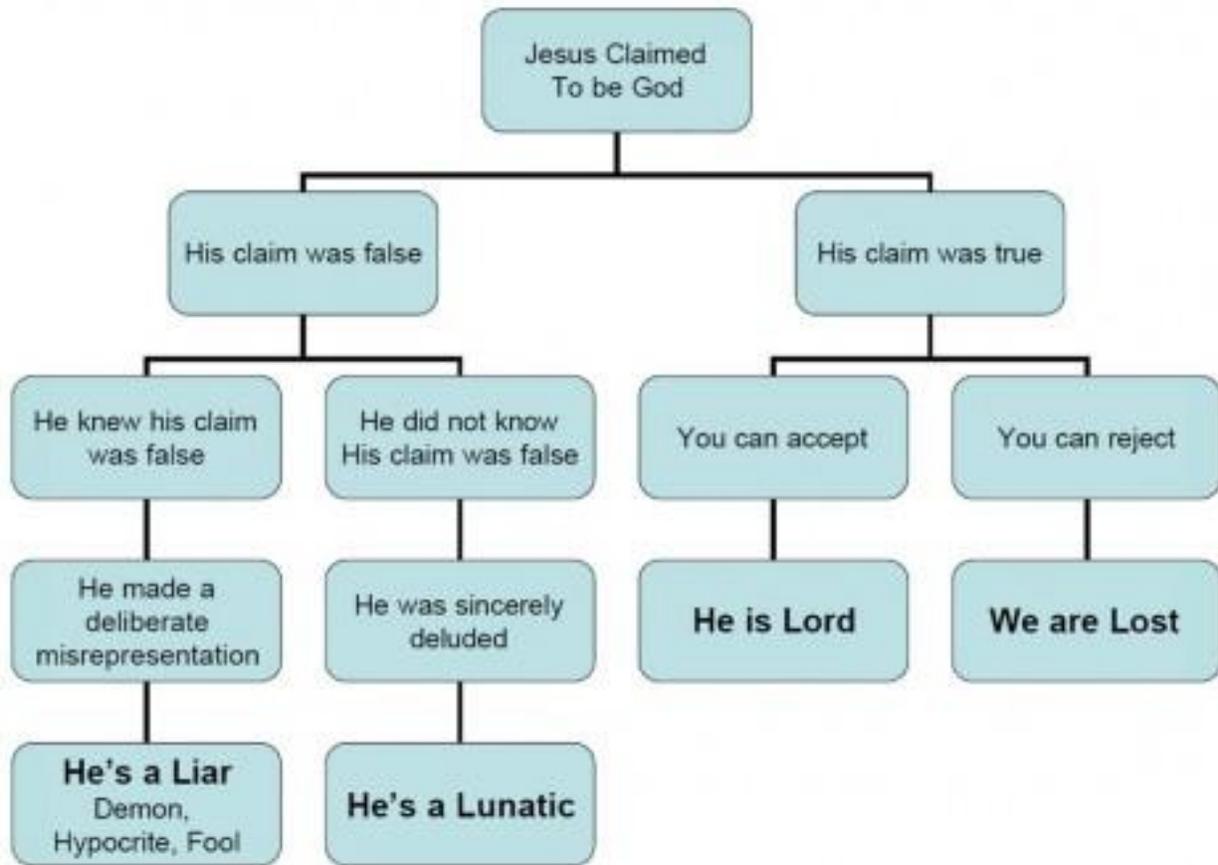
To choose a life of sin is to prefer, desire, or select sin as opposed to righteousness. It is sin that you are choosing to live with and cannot give up. It is not sinning and then repenting.

6. The others saying, "He is a crazy man" vs. Jesus' words he is the I am. Or Liar, Lunatic, or Lord? From CS Lewis.

John 8: 49-51, 54-58 "I'm not crazy. I simply honor my Father, while you dishonor me. I am not trying to get anything for myself. God intends something gloriously grand here and is making the decisions that will bring it about. Abraham—your 'father'—with jubilant faith looked down the corridors of history and saw my day coming. He saw it and cheered."

The Jews said, "You're not even fifty years old—and Abraham saw you?"

"Believe me," said Jesus, "*I am who I am* long before Abraham was anything."



We have all questioned like this! For an illness, job situation, family situation, etc.

**Jesus answer to it all
I am the light of the world.**

Examples of light

*Our ordinary lights or flashlights or headlamps or cell phones

They show us the way

*My happy light or lasers

They bring healing or illuminate the bad and help cut it away

*The sun

It makes things grow or work

Jesus is like all of this!

Ps. 119:105. My word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

He shows us the way!

1 John 1: 5-10. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth; but if we walk in the

light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

He heals and shows us what needs to be cut out!

Matthew 5: 14-16. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

He helps us grow and work properly!

Examples of light in the Bible.

1. Proverbs 4:18 symbolizes righteousness as the "morning sun."
2. Philippians 2:15 likens God's children who are "blameless and pure" to shining stars in the sky.
3. Jesus used light as a picture of good works: "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds" (Matthew 5:16).
4. Psalm 76:4 says of God, "You are radiant with light."
5. Jesus, the sinless Son of God, is the "true light" (John 1:9)

God is the Creator of physical light as well as the Giver of spiritual light by which we can see the truth. Light exposes that which is hidden in darkness; it shows things as they really are. To walk in the light means to know God, understand the truth, and live in righteousness.

As adopted sons of God, we are to reflect His light into a world darkened by sin. Our goal in witnessing to the unsaved is "to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God" (Acts 26:18).
(Gotquestions.org)

Conclusion:

Is. 43:21. The people I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.

God is light, and it is His plan that believers shine forth His light, becoming more like Christ every day. "You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness" (1 Thessalonians 5:5).

This little light of mine.

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