



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel

John 8:12-20

From Sermon 1.28.24

Read *John 8:12-20*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: Jesus now gives His next "I AM" statement, claiming to be the Light of life. Both the "I AM" and the attribute of Light are claims of deity. It is also another call to salvation—and salvation in Christ alone. The religious leaders—in their purely human, sinful condition—try to fall back on the Law of Moses to invalidate Jesus' self-testimony. Jesus shows He is both the Law itself and true.

1. Jesus said that those who follow Him will never walk in darkness. Review and discuss the qualities of spiritual darkness.

- *Ephesians 5:11*—Sin, Evil, Lawlessness
- *Proverbs 4:19*—Perpetual lostness and stumbling through life
- *Romans 1:21*—Foolish hearts that deny God and any final accountability
- *Ephesians 4:18-19*—Ignorance and the absence of real life

2. Now, review and discuss the qualities of Divine Light Jesus offers.

- *John 1:4*— Life
- *1 Peter 2:9*— Holy, pure, sinless
- *Ecclesiastes 2:13*— Knowledge/wisdom
- *Psalms 119:105*— Sight & direction
- *1 John 1:7-8*— Truth
- *John 3:19*— Exposes reality/everyone's true condition

3. What does Jesus mean when He says follow Me? Full surrender. Taking up our cross daily, denying self, and walking in His Light.

3a. What does He not mean? A mere admiring Jesus. Giving Him the leftovers of life. Banking on some past emotional experience as evidence of salvation vs. daily reliance and service.

4. The religious leaders say Jesus' self-testimony is not valid. R.C. Sproul said that is the position of every non-believer in history. Discuss. Various personal thoughts. In the end, every response to Jesus that isn't total surrender is stating: "Jesus, I don't believe You."

5. When Jesus says the leaders "don't know Him or the Father", what indictment is He making about religion? The Jews, even though they have the Old Testament, the Covenants, and Promises are no closer to God and salvation than the pagan, the atheist, or the world's religions. He and Father are inseparable.

6. Read *Matthew 5:13-16*. How do you and I reflect that very Light as believers in this darkening world? Various answers. We have the truth. We have the cure for what's killing the world. We must share it.

6a. Jesus warned about hiding the light. What are ways we keep His light from shining in the world? Various Answers.