

## **The Gospel of John – The Seven “I am” sayings Session 2**

John 8:12 “I am the Light of the World.”

This pronouncement comes out of nowhere unless you take into consideration John 1, what we refer to as “the Prologue”. John talks about light coming into the world. Which of course then harkens back to Genesis 1 when GOD separates the Light from the darkness. **Read John 1:1-18**

The Gospel of John makes a very clear connection to the book of Genesis. The first three words, “In the beginning” leads us on a journey in both books. John’s Gospel mimics the 7 days of creation in the first day of Jesus arrival on the scene. **Read John 1:29, 1:35, 1:43, and you get the idea.**

Bread we could understand, especially after Jesus fed the 5000. Light is a harder concept because it is not something the people can touch. What do we make of Jesus as the Light of the World?

**In Genesis 1** the light shows up in verse 3, “And GOD said, let there be light. GOD saw that the light was good, and GOD separated the light from the darkness.”

**In John 1** the light shows up in verse 4, “In him was life and that life **was the light of all people**. Verse 5, “**The light shines** in darkness a darkness that did not overcome it.” (Some translation read, did not understand it.)

Last week it was mentioned that the Gospel of John is a standalone Gospel. Matthew Mark and Luke share many similar stories, yet they have some stories unique only to them. As for the Gospel of John, other than Jesus as the central figure, not much is the same as Matthew Mark and Luke. Including the fact that Jesus was forever telling his disciples to not tell people who he was, ‘the son of man.’ In John’s Gospel Jesus is forever telling anyone who will listen who he is, how he is sent from GOD, if they know him they know GOD. There is none of that, keep it quiet here.

It is all about revealing who Jesus is as the chosen of GOD in the Gospel of John. **The Light points to the presence of GOD.** That's why Jesus declares himself the Light of the World, he is the presence of GOD now in the world. And he wants the world to know it.

**Jesus is ready to take on the establishment in this gospel, and that is made perfectly clear in chapter 8.** The establishment being the Pharisees. Same with Matthew's Gospel. In Mark the enemy of Jesus were the scribes. Why the difference? A simple answer involves geography. Pharisees were known to be near the Temple in Jerusalem. Their responsibilities were there. In Mark the scribes were up in Galilee where Jesus' ministry started. No Pharisees up there.

Besides the "I am" saying in 8:12, Jesus use the phrase, "I AM" three more times in Chapter 8. The importance of these statements are that they are declaring that Jesus is the GOD of the Old Testament. Check out **8:24; 8:27; 8:57**. They don't necessarily stand out in capital letters as I have them here. But that he uses these words is significant.

When Jesus answers the challenges from the crowd with this phrase, **"I tell you the truth, before Abraham was born, I am."**, John 8:58, he is talking about his eternal nature of his being and his oneness with God the Father. He has address this throughout this chapter and continues throughout the Gospel of John. Jesus starts this chapter with "I am the Light of the world." And finishes it with this declaration of his eternal nature. Oh yes, The Gospel of John is a fascinating gospel to study.