

Journey Through the New Testament

John 7 – 11

Series: The Resurrection and the Life

“Save Yourself”

4-21-19

Introduction

In the readings this week, conflict and opposition continued between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders. Long, theological discussions were recounted as Jesus claimed his identity as being one with the Father. Speaking in the temple, Jesus publicly proclaimed that he was/is “the light of the world,” and those who follow him “will have the light of life.” (John 8:12) Jesus plainly told the truth about his divinity, his coming death, and his offer of life to the world. Those who heard his message had to decide for themselves whether or not they would believe and trust the One whom God had sent for salvation. Entangled in tradition and their ancestry with Abraham, the Pharisees could not “hear” the truth of what Jesus was telling them.

Opening Prayer

O God, how hard it is for us to grasp the truth; the truth that we are like slaves bound to sin. Show us that we cannot save ourselves, yet it is up to us to decide if we will trust you enough to place our faith in you. Send your grace to help us accept you as the only source of hope, freedom, and new life. Amen.

Bible Study Selected verses from John 8 (CEB)

What?

John 8:12-25

1. What was Jesus claiming about himself in John 8:12?
2. As the discussion continued, what complaints and issues did the Pharisees have against Jesus? (v. 13, 19,22, 25)

John 8:28-42

1. The argument continued as Jesus spoke about his coming death and return to the Father. When the subject of their relationship to Abraham came up, the Jewish leaders were furious with Jesus. Summarize what Jesus was saying, and what made the religious leaders so indignant. (v. 33, 41 also v. 48, 52-53, 59-59)

Lesson Notes: In the Old Testament, God called Abraham into a covenant/promise that he would become the “father of many nations” through his lineage and faith in God. He was the patriarch of Judaism and by extension, Christianity, which depends upon the traditions of Abraham. In the New Testament, Abraham was a model of faith and the pioneer of trust in God. (*Harper-Collins Bible Dictionary*)

2. Some of the Jews believed in Jesus (v. 31) but Jesus emphasized to them that they must follow *his teaching* in order to know the truth about God. What were the Jews counting on for their freedom? (v. 33)
3. What type of freedom was Jesus referring to?
4. What image did Jesus use to describe sin? (v. 34)

So What?

1. So, in this long encounter between Jesus and the religious leaders, what word/phrases are used to describe who Jesus is? (v. 12, 16, 23, 27, 36,39,42)
2. The religious leaders were proud and secure in their religious heritage linked to their Father Abraham. But what ultimate truth was Jesus pointing out to the Pharisees regarding Abraham? How was Abraham linked to that truth?
3. So, what is the truth about our human condition? Who/what will set us free from the power of sin? (John 8:31-32)
4. Describe the connection between Jesus’ identity, believing in him, and spiritual freedom. (Refer to John 8:31-32, Romans 6:1-4, Romans 8:1-4.)

Now What?

1. The Pharisees were proud of their ancestry with Abraham and their dedication to keeping the law of Moses. What assumptions or proud securities might we have in our religious heritage or in keeping the rules?
2. Now, what clearer understanding do you have of who Jesus is? How we are saved from sin? And how we experience new life? Discuss.
3. What does all this have to do with Easter, the “resurrection and the life?”

Closing Reflection

“I came so that they could have life—indeed, so that they could live life to the fullest.” John 10:10