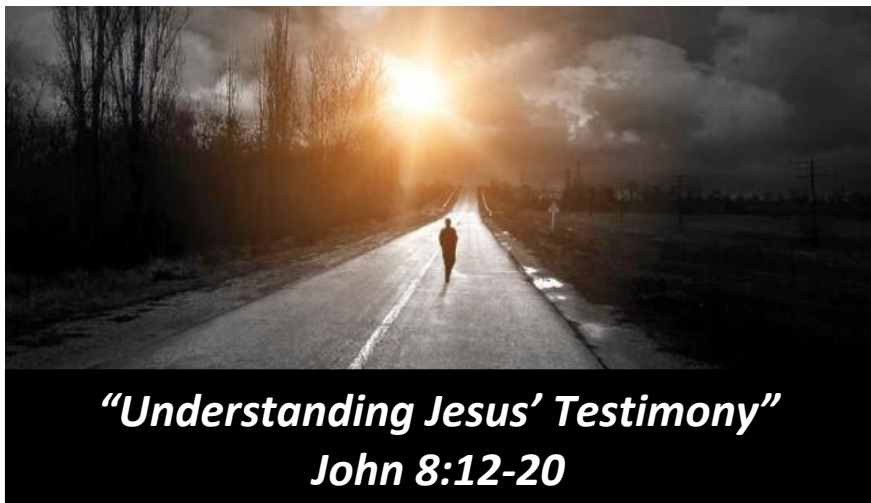


Sunday, November 1, 2020

Fall Series: "Nobody but Jesus"- Studies in John's Good News about Jesus



"Understanding Jesus' Testimony"
John 8:12-20

How do I tend to view the world; Optimist? Pessimist? Realist? What makes me view it through that filter?

Read John 8:12. In what ways do I see Jesus' lighting the world? Do I tend to focus more on the light, or the darkness?

Read John 8:15. In what ways do I tend to judge by human standards and not by the light Jesus provides?

John 8:18 Jesus says, "I am the one who testifies about myself." What is my testimony about Jesus? When have I shared it last?

Complete the sentence, "People know I follow Jesus because..." or "I'm not sure I am following Jesus because..."

Read John 8:23,24. Do I believe I can live without God? Does my life reflect my answer?

In what area of my life do I need Jesus to shine?

If you never have, memorize 1 John 1:5-7 this week. Record how many times this week, this verse will help you stay focused on hope.

"PRAY FOR ONE"- For whom does God place on my heart to pray for an intentional opportunity to intentionally share the good news of Jesus? Will I commit to pray along those lines between now and the end of the year? Who will pray with me?

Next Week: "Understanding Jesus' Purpose"

*****SEE BELOW FOR THIS WEEK'S STUDY QUESTIONS*****

JOHN 8

Do you think God forgives people with no strings attached? Why or why not?

Read John 8:1-11.

Verses 1-12 were not included in the oldest manuscripts of the Gospel of John. While these verses may not belong in the original Gospel, scholars generally believe that it is a historical account and corresponds with the character of Jesus.

- Why do you think the Pharisees brought an adulterous woman to Jesus?
- Describe Jesus' attitude toward this woman.
- If you were the woman, how would you feel about Jesus?
- Do you think Jesus takes this adulterous relationship too lightly?
- What does this incident teach us about hypocrisy and forgiveness? Read John 8:12-30.
- The religious leaders accuse Jesus of authenticating Himself by his own arguments. How does Jesus defend Himself?
- How does Jesus claim equality with the Father in verse 19?
- In verses 23-24, what claim does Jesus make about people's personal destinies?
- How did His listeners respond in verse 25?
- Do you think people are still confused about Jesus' identity today?
- Jesus asserts that He always does what pleases the Father. How do you think His life pleased God?
- Do you think we can live a life that is always pleasing to God?
- What would this kind of life look like? Read John 8:31-47.
- Jesus spoke about truth and freedom in verses 31- 32. What do you think He means?

- What would a person's life look like today if he or she knew the truth and was set free?
- In verse 34, note the symptom that people in spiritual slavery continually demonstrate. What must happen before a person can be really free?
- Jesus talks about fatherhood in verses 39-47. What is He saying about the Jewish leaders' father? What is He saying about His father?
- If God is a person's father, how would he or she respond to Jesus?
- Jesus makes some bold assertions about the devil in verse 44. What is He saying?
- Do you think Jesus viewed the devil as a real figure or a symbol of evil?
- How is our culture's beliefs about the devil similar/dissimilar to Jesus' beliefs?
- Be honest. How do you feel about Jesus' teaching about the devil?
- Is it possible to believe in God without believing in Jesus? Read John 8:48-59.

Jesus makes some comparisons to Abraham, an Old Testament figure who lived in approximately 1800 BC. Abraham was considered to be the father of the Jewish nation (Genesis 12:1-3). All Jews could trace their lineage to Abraham.

Jesus' statement, "Before Abraham was born, I am" could only mean a claim to deity. "I am" implies continuous existence, an attribute only God possessed. Jesus asserted that before Abraham's birth, He existed. I AM was recognized by the Jews as a title of deity.

- Describe the exchange between Jesus and the religious leaders?
- Jesus makes the statement that "before Abraham was born, I am!" Why do the Jews react to this?
- Jesus never allows people to sit on the fence when it comes to His identity. How is He shaking up your understanding of who He is?