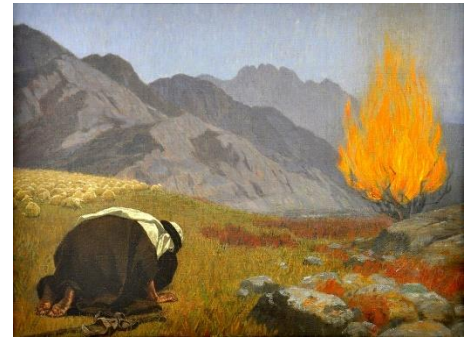


# Encountering the Great "I AM"

## *I Am the Light of the World*

**BACKGROUND** . . . Jesus has returned to Jerusalem – though its leaders are seeking to arrest and kill Him for something He did the last time He was in Jerusalem . . .

What ornery thing had Jesus done the last time He was in Jerusalem? (see **JOHN 5:9B-10**)



*“Not until halfway through the Feast did Jesus go up to the Temple courts and begin to teach.”*     **JOHN 7:14**

The reactions to Jesus and His teaching was passionate and varied. Check out the reactions in these verses . . .

**7:15** –

**7:20** –

**7:26** –

**7:28** –

**7:30** –

**7:31** –

**7:32** –

**7:40-42** –

**7:46** -

How do people reaction to Jesus today?

How have some in the Church promoted a false portrayal of Jesus to make Him match up with human expectations?

NOTE: the earliest manuscripts of John’s Gospel do NOT include **JOHN 7:53 – 8:11**. What’s that mean?

- The story is NOT necessarily \_\_\_\_\_ .
- We should take / make NO \_\_\_\_\_ out of these verses.
- It perfectly ok for us to \_\_\_\_\_ the story and apply its truths we find in other \_\_\_\_\_ .

*“I AM the Light of the World”*      **JOHN 8:12**

What incredible claims is Jesus making with the words:

*“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”*

- He not-so-subtly drops an “I AM”, thereby claiming to be \_\_\_\_\_
- The exclusive nature of the word “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”
- The all-inclusive nature of the words “ \_\_\_\_\_ ” and “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”
- If you DON’T follow Jesus you are in “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”
- If you DO follow Jesus you have the “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

When do we first meet this Light in John’s Gospel? How about the first chapter!?!

How does **JOHN 1:5** help explain the diversity of reactions to Jesus in His life?

What does **JOHN 1:9** say about YOU?

Jesus expands on this in **MATTHEW 5:14-15** where He declares US to be the light of the world. Is this a reflected light or a light from you??

How does **JOHN 3:19-20** help explain the diversity of reactions to Jesus in His life?

What does **JOHN 3:21** say about YOU?

What are some things being done today where the Light of God’s Word causes fear, anger, etc. ?

*“. . . the Pharisees challenged Him”*      **JOHN 8:13-20**

Ever noticed that when you’re miffed at someone your ears tend to fail? How did the Pharisees exemplify this in reacting to Jesus?

The Pharisee’s problem with Jesus was one of authority.

WHO exactly said that it was ok for You to heal that man on the Sabbath?

WHY did You choose to heal him so close to the Temple?

Therefore, YOUR testimony is rejected!!

Notice that Jesus answered AND countered the arguments of the Pharisees:

MY testimony is valid because . . .

YOU judge by human standards . . .

My FATHER stands beside me . . .

Why is it fair to say that the Pharisee's next question (**VERSE 19**) betrayed the darkness of their situation?

I've had people say that they don't believe in Jesus but they believe in God.

What was Jesus' opinion of such a faith (see **VERSE 19**)?

Why is so necessary for us to hold on to BOTH the Father and the Son?

### **A FEW TAKE-AWAYS**

Jesus brings light – to see WHO He is and WHERE He is leading us.

Those who reject the light are angry and/or confused – that shouldn't surprise us

We are the Light of the World when we walk in the light of Jesus – demonstration of His grace and proclamation of His salvation.