

JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

PLEASE do not read these comments until you have prayed and read the Bible for this lesson to learn what the Holy Spirit wants you to teach your students. Then let Him guide you in using these notes. When you follow this procedure you will be a better teacher of your students.

Lesson Aim: Learn how to fight against the darkness of this world with light that Christ gives us.

Suggestion: The teacher lesson will call attention to some important truths to teach. After the lesson, give your class next week's Student Lesson so they can share their answers in class next week.

Introduction: John shows us that Jesus' opposition came from the religious leaders in Jerusalem who desired His death, even plotted for it. These were the rulers of darkness of this world fighting against the Light of the world. It was spiritual warfare: Satan's forces against God's. In Ephesians 4-6 we will see a likeness of the believers' warfare against Satan's forces. "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Eph 6:12).

How did Jesus handle the taunting of His unbelieving brothers? 7:1-10

The feast of tabernacles was a feast in the fall of the year when all Israelites were commanded to attend, especially adult males, and worship the Lord for blessing them with food from the harvest of their crops. This feast was held in Jerusalem where the Jewish leaders planned to have Him killed. His brothers challenged Him to go to Jerusalem and openly show His followers that He is the Messiah. They were mocking Him for not going up to Jerusalem with them, indicating He was afraid to openly confront the Jewish leaders. Jesus told them, "My time is not yet come." He knew that He was to die at the Passover in the spring of the year, not in the fall of the year. The Passover was to remind the people that God commanded His people in Egypt to kill a spotless lamb for each household and have its blood sprinkled around the doorway of the house, so the firstborn in the family would not be killed by the death angel when he would pass over them. Jesus knew that He was the perfect Lamb of God that would shed His blood for the sins of the world. Since it was not His time to die, He told His brothers that He would not go yet. However, He told them it was their time to go to the feast. They would not be hated, but He would be hated because He testified against the Jewish leaders for their sin. Was Jesus afraid of the Jewish rulers? No, He was cautious. He would not go up with unbelievers: His brothers and the people from Nazareth. He would go up quietly with His disciples a little later and boldly taught the people in the Temple (7:28-34, 45-46). What lesson do we learn from Jesus in this regard? When we are mocked by the world, we must remove ourselves from them and not reason with them. We must do the work that God has called us to do. We are called to be witnesses for Christ and to love the believers. Stay with that task and do not let the ridicule of the world deter you from it.

What did Jesus mean when He said, "If any man thirst, let him come to Me, and drink"? 7:37-39

Jesus said, "He that believes on Me . . . out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." John says that Jesus was referring to the Spirit as the living water (7:39). At Pentecost, after Jesus had ascended to Heaven, the Holy Spirit was sent to dwell in every believer as a spring of water to quench their spiritual thirst. He saves believers and satisfies them (Jn 3:3-7; 4:4-15). Has the Spirit saved and satisfied you?

How is Jesus the Light of the World? 8:12

Jesus gives light to believers so they do not walk in darkness; they can know God's will and walk in it. Also, He is the "light of life." "In Him was life; and the life was the light of men" (Jn 1:4). He is the source of physical and spiritual life. He came into the world and gives light to every person (Jn 1:9). His light reveals sin and righteousness. We can see we are sinful and He is righteous. We see we can be righteous by believing He paid for our sin to set us free (8:28-32). Has the Light of life set you free?

What did Jesus say about Abraham to show He is God and the Jews were in darkness? 8:56-59

Jesus said Abraham rejoiced to see His day. It happened when He and two angels visited Abraham (Gen 18). There He is called LORD (*Yahweh*), God's name. The Jews were shocked; they did not believe Jesus saw Abraham. Jesus said, "Before Abraham was, **I AM**." This is another name for God. The darkness of sin blinded the Jew's minds, so they tried to stone Him, but He walked past them. Do you believe Jesus is God, or has the darkness of sin blinded your minds?