



The Words of Jesus Series

Light, Truth and Liberty

Adultery, Light, Truth and a Man Born Blind

Context: John 7, 8 & 9

Lesson 1 – Feast of Booths

(John 7:1-53)

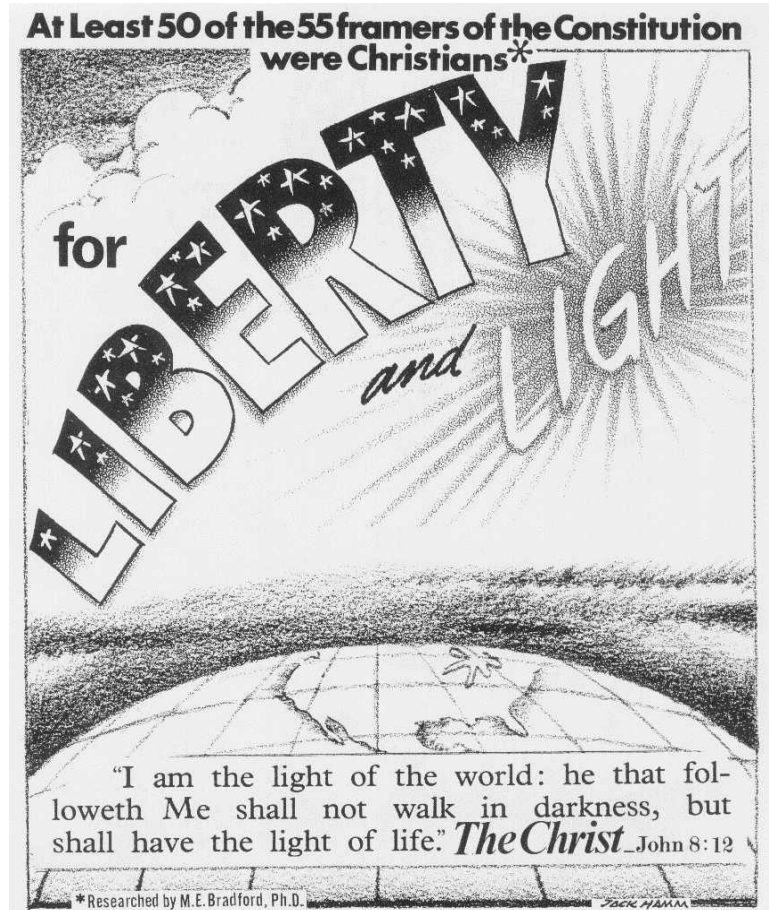
Lesson 2 – Before Abraham

(John 8:1-59)

Lesson 3 – Man Born Blind

(John 9:1-41)

Jesus teaches in the temple during the Feast of Booths, is questioned about an adulterous woman, declares that He is the Light of the world, announces the truth will set us free, reveals that He pre-existed Abraham, and heals a man born blind.



Suggested methodology for each lesson:

1. Fellowship (Save most of this for the end of class.)
2. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst.)
3. Pray (The idea here is to leave our troubles with God so we can give His word our attention with a clear mind.)
4. Read the lesson's text aloud from the Bible. (... or a few verses at a time as you answer the questions.)
5. Answer and *briefly* discuss the "fill in the blank" questions. (Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers on the next page are just one opinion; you may have a better answer if it is based on Scripture.)
6. On the final "Think & Pray" question everyone should take a few minutes to pray over it and jot down their own thoughts before the discussion. **This will give the Holy Spirit a time to speak.**
7. Discuss your "Think & Pray" answers. (Never force anyone to share theirs. As with the other questions, my answer is just one more opinion; you may have a better answer.)
8. Close in prayer (It is best to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission ahead of time.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, each lesson is expected to take about one hour. Steps 4 thru 7 are about half of that. If you take longer, let each lesson take more than one meeting, or consider breaking into two groups. If you take less time, extra questions are provided for discussion called "For Further Thought"

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Lesson 1 – The Feast of Booths (John 7:1-53)

Please read these scriptures and answer the associated questions:

[1A] John 7:1-5 Did the brothers of Jesus believe in Him? _____

[1B] John 7:6-9 Why did most people hate Jesus? _____

[1C] John 7:10-13 Why weren't people speaking openly about Jesus? _____

[1D] John 7:14-18 How can we know that Jesus speaks for God? _____

[1E] John 7:19-24 Jesus understood their anger to be about what? _____

[1F] John 7:25-27 Was Jesus hiding Himself from public view? _____

[1G] John 7:28-31 Who is true? _____

[1H] John 7:32-36 Who sent officers to seize Jesus? _____

[1I] John 7:37-39 Why was the Spirit not yet given? _____

[1J] John 7:40-44 Where did they think Jesus had been born? _____

[1K] John 7:45-53 Why did the officers not seize Jesus? _____

[1L] There are a number of different characters in the story in this chapter -- Jesus, His brothers, the Jews (a.k.a chief priests and Pharisees), the crowd against Him, the crowd for Him, the officers sent to arrest Him, and Nicodemus. Which one of them is most like you? Why?

Think & Pray _____

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



Jesus stirred such angst within the Jewish community that his profile was found in all the postal offices in the land. **Mk 3:6, Mt 26:4**

Lesson 1 – The Feast of Booths (John 7:1-53)

- [1A] John 7:1-5 Did the brothers of Jesus believe in Him? No
 [1B] John 7:6-9 Why did most people hate Jesus? Because He testifies of their evil deeds
 [1C] John 7:10-13 Why weren't people speaking openly about Jesus? Fear of the Jews
 [1D] John 7:14-18 How can we know that Jesus speaks for God? By being willing to obey God
 [1E] John 7:19-24 Jesus understood their anger to be about what? Healing on the Sabbath
 [1F] John 7:25-27 Was Jesus hiding Himself from public view? No
 [1G] John 7:28-31 Who is true? The One who sent Jesus Christ
 [1H] John 7:32-36 Who sent officers to seize Jesus? Chief priests and Pharisees
 [1I] John 7:37-39 Why was the Spirit not yet given? Christ was not yet glorified
 [1J] John 7:40-44 Where did they think Jesus had been born? Galilee but He was born in Bethlehem
 [1K] John 7:45-53 Why did the officers not seize Jesus? The way He spoke

[1L] I want to be like Jesus, but I'm not yet. I have played all the other roles at different times in my life. I've been like His brothers and challenged the Lord to do things my way instead of His. I have been like the Jews and verbally attacked the beliefs of Christians. I've never been sent to arrest Him, but I have certainly been amazed by Him at times I least expected. I have been all across the different kinds of people in the crowd, against Him, ambivalent about Him, indifferent towards Him, confused about Him, and believing in Him, which is where I am now. I sometimes speak boldly for Him, but sadly I am still sometimes more like Nicodemus, offering only a tepid half-hearted defense of my belief in Jesus Christ.

For Further Thought:

- (1m) Thinking about John 7:7; Is this why the world still hates Jesus? Explain.
- (1n) In my answer above to 1D, I changed it to present tense and claimed that willingness to obey God leads to a better understanding of His word. Do you agree? Why?
- (1o) John 7:28 says, "...but He who sent Me is true..." What does that mean?
- (1p) In John 7:38 Jesus refers to the Old Testament. Scholars differ as to which scripture He meant. In your opinion was He talking about Isaiah 44:3, Isaiah 55:1 or Isaiah 58:11? (See also John 4:10)
- (1q) Explain John 7:39.
- (1r) In John 7:27, John 7:41-43 and John 7:52 it is apparent that it is not generally known where Jesus was born. Instead of clearing up this mystery Jesus talks about Who He is from instead of Where He was from. Why do you think He did this?
- (1s) In John 7:46 the officers explain why they did not arrest Jesus. What did they mean?
- (1t) The Feast of Booths is described in Deuteronomy 16:13-17. Does reading that passage help your understanding of John chapter 7? Explain.
- (1u) The Feast of Booths also appears in the prophecy of Zechariah 15:16-19. Does reading that passage help your understanding of John chapter 7? Explain.
- (1v) In John 7:42 it is seen that they knew where The Christ would be born. How did they know this? (Hint: Micah 5:2)

Lesson 2 – Before Abraham (John 8:1-59)

Please read these scriptures and answer the associated questions:

[2A] John 8:1-5 What was the woman accused of doing? _____

[2B] John 8:6-11 What did Jesus do? _____

[2C] John 8:12 What will those who follow Jesus have? _____

[2D] John 8:13-18 The Pharisees were referring to Deuteronomy 17:6 here but their accusation of false testimony had a logical flaw. What? _____

[2E] John 8:19-20 Where was Jesus speaking? _____

[2F] John 8:21-25 Where was Jesus from? _____

[2G] John 8:26-30 When will they know Who He is? _____

[2H] John 8:31-32 What will set us free? _____

[2I] John 8:33-37 Who is the slave of sin? _____

[2J] John 8:38-40 Who do the Jews claim is their father? _____

[2K] John 8:41-43 Who do the Jews claim is their father? _____

[2L] John 8:44 Who does Jesus say is their father? _____

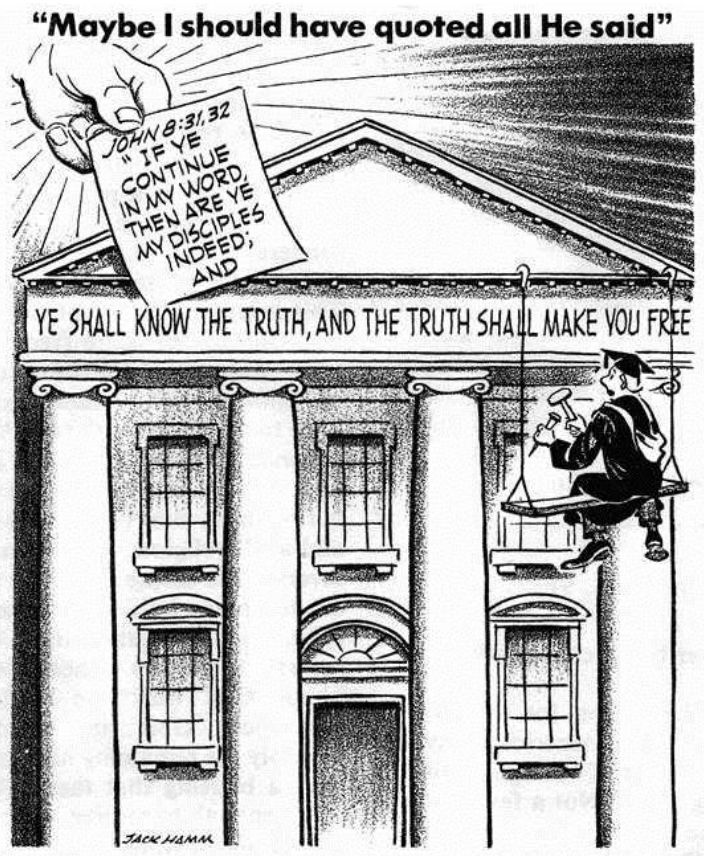
[2M] John 8:45-50 Who can hear God's word? _____

[2N] John 8:51-55 Who will never see death? _____

[2O] John 8:56-59 Before Abraham was born, what was Jesus? _____

[2P] How can we apply John 8:11 to our own lives? _____

Think & Pray _____



Lesson 2 – Before Abraham (John 8:1-59)

- [2A] John 8:1-5 What was the woman accused of doing? Adultery The trap the Pharisees were laying here had to do with Roman law, not Mosaic law. The Romans allowed nations in their empire to govern themselves except for capital punishment. Only the Romans were allowed to execute people. Since Roman rule was almost universally hated by the Jewish people if Jesus had said to not stone her for that reason, the Pharisees believed that it would turn His followers against Him. On the other hand if He said to stone her He would be breaking Roman law and that would have given them an excuse to turn him over to Roman authorities.
- [2B] John 8:6-11 What did Jesus do? Wrote on the ground
- [2C] John 8:12 What will those who follow Jesus have? The light of life
- [2D] John 8:13-18 The Pharisees were alluding to Deuteronomy 17:6 here but their accusation of false testimony had a logical flaw. What? A single witness might be telling the truth or he might not. The Pharisees were claiming a single witness would necessarily give false testimony.
- [2E] John 8:19-20 Where was Jesus speaking? In the treasury of the temple
- [2F] John 8:21-25 Where was Jesus from? Above There are a lot of other "right" answers here.
- [2G] John 8:26-30 When will they know Who He is? When He is lifted up Crucifixion?
- [2H] John 8:31-32 What will set us free? The truth
- [2I] John 8:33-37 Who is the slave of sin? Those who commit sin
- [2J] John 8:38-40 Who do the Jews claim is their father? Abraham
- [2K] John 8:41-43 Who do the Jews claim is their father? God
- [2L] John 8:44 Who does Jesus say is their father? The devil, the murdering father of lies and liars
- [2M] John 8:45-50 Who can hear God's word? He who is of God
- [2N] John 8:51-55 Who will never see death? Those who keep the word of Jesus Christ
- [2O] John 8:56-59 Before Abraham was born, what was Jesus? I am
- [2P] God does not want us to feel guilty and ashamed. He wants us to quit sinning. He wants repentance not remorse.

For Further Thought:

- (2q) Thinking about John 8:5; The law of Moses in Deuteronomy 22:22 states that a man and a woman caught in adultery should both be put to death. Why didn't the Pharisee's bring the woman?
- (2r) Over the years there has been a lot of speculation about what Jesus wrote on the ground in John 8:6-8. What is your speculation and why?
- (2s) What does John 8:12 mean?
- (2t) Please explain John 8:21.
- (2u) John 8:31 says, "... the truth will make you free." The truth about what will make you free from what?
- (2v) Thinking about John 8:34; Are you the slave of sin or the slave of righteousness? How do you know?
- (2w) What are "the deeds of Abraham" that Jesus mentions in John 8:39?
- (2x) Compare John 8:58 with John 6:35; John 6:41; John 6:48; John 8:12; John 10:7-14; John 10:36; John 11:25; John 13:13; John 14:6; John 15:5; and John 18:37. What did you learn?

Lesson 3 – Man Born Blind (John 9:1-41)

John 9:1-41. Here we have the story of a man born blind receiving his sight. This story contains an important truth about our walk with the Lord and how to deal with that vast area of knowledge we do not have. Please read these scriptures and answer the associated questions:

[3A] (John 9:1-2) What do you believe is the connection between sin and events in our lives?

[3B] (John 9:3-5) Is your nature and circumstances designed for God’s purpose?

[3C] (John 9:6-7) What did Jesus use to heal the man? _____

[3D] (John 9:8-12) Has this formerly blind man ever seen Jesus? _____

[3E] (John 9:13-17) To whom do they take the man? _____

[3F] Why? _____

[3G] (John 9:17-23) Has this formerly blind man ever seen Jesus? _____

[3H] What impact does this have on his belief? _____

[3I] (John 9:24-34) Whose disciple do the Pharisees claim to be? _____

[3J] Why don’t their attacks change the man’s point of view? _____

[3K] (John 9:35-38) Has this formerly blind man ever seen Jesus? _____

[3L] What is revealed to the man because of his faithfulness? _____

[3M] (John 9:39-41) The Pharisees claimed to be the disciples of Moses. They read Moses and the Prophets. What impact does it have on the Pharisees to study these scriptures? What does that teach us about ourselves?

Think & Pray _____

For Further Thought:

(3n) What did you learn in this course that you would like to remember?

(3o) If someone asked you what this course was about, what would you tell them?

(3p) What scripture from this course would be best to memorize? Why?

Lesson 3 – Man Born Blind (John 9:1-41)

[3A] (John 9:1-2) First the disciples ask Jesus whose sin caused the man to be blind. They had a false belief that whenever anything bad happened to someone it was because either the person or his ancestors had sinned for which God cursed them and/or their family. Yes, sin leads to evil consequences, but evil consequences are not always because of your own sin, or that of some loved one.

[3B] (John 9:3-5) Jesus answers in the most remarkable way saying the man's blindness is not caused by sin. He says the man is blind so that the disciples can learn something about God. This man has been placed on the earth to carry out God's purpose. His condition and circumstances were designed by God to make it possible for him to complete that purpose. Doesn't this imply that each of us was put here to fulfill some purpose of God? Doesn't it also imply that our nature and circumstances are also designed around that purpose?

[3C] (John 9:6-7) *What did Jesus use to heal the man?* spit and dirt mixed into mud Jesus heals the man in such a way, that when his eyes begin to see, Jesus is no longer around. In that way, Jesus makes sure that the man could not and did not see Jesus. This becomes important later in the story.

[3D] (John 9:8-12) *Has this formerly blind man ever seen Jesus?* No His friends and neighbors, after some trouble believing it is really him who was once blind, want to know where to find Jesus. The man being blind at his last meeting with Jesus cannot know. Jesus has made sure of that.

[3E-F] (John 9:13-17) *To whom do they take the man?* Pharisees Some of the blind man's neighbors know the Pharisees. (God arranged that.) The Pharisees are upset because the healing was on the Sabbath day which is against Jewish law, at least, according to their interpretation. On the other hand it is clear, even to them, that a God sized miracle has occurred. Finally they ask the once blind man his opinion.

[3G-H] (John 9:17-23) *Has this formerly blind man ever seen Jesus?* No Even though he has never seen Jesus, he believes that Jesus is a prophet of God based on what He has done. The Pharisees call the man's parents to testify, and everything is confirmed. The parents are afraid of being thrown out of the synagogue so they are opinionless.

[3I-J] (John 9:24-34) *Whose disciple do the Pharisees claim to be?* Moses' Again they question the man. This time they try to change his opinion of Jesus. Because Jesus does not match their ideas of what God should be like, they reject the clear evidence of Who He is. Every time you do not know the answer to a question unbeliever's will try to twist that into evidence that you are wrong. If you are not careful, they will maliciously and unintentionally turn your lack of an answer into doubts in your mind.

How this once blind man responds is very interesting. Instead of focusing on what is not known and on their doubts and accusations, he looks at what he does know. He knows that once he was blind, and that now he sees. You know what you once were and, what you have become in the hands of almighty God. You were lost, and now you are saved. You can focus on the evidence you do have -- your own salvation and spiritual growth.

[3K-L] (John 9:35-38) *Has this formerly blind man ever seen Jesus?* No Jesus finds the once blind man and reveals Himself to him. The man, understanding Jesus is Lord, responds with worship. He was obedient in a little, and was faithful with what had been revealed to him so he is rewarded with more revelations. Obey what you understand about God, and more understanding will be given to you. (See Ps 119:33-34, 100, 129-130 & Matt 7:24)

[3M] (John 9:39-41) Some of the arrogant Pharisees may be beginning to understand. "We are not blind too, are we?" They think they have God all figured out. Instead, they are always learning but never able to come to knowledge of the truth. They use what knowledge they have of God as a tool to manipulate and control others instead of using it to more faithfully obey God. As a result they see nothing about God's reality. The lesson for us is simple. Trust what we know to be true. Do not expect that you will ever have all the answers. Be willing to say, "I do not know." Like the once blind man, you and I have never seen Jesus but we know by what He has done in our lives that He is our Savior.

Do not let a lack of knowledge block you from speaking for Jesus Christ. Just because you do not know everything, does not mean you are wrong what you do know. The people asking you questions do not know everything either. This does not mean we should be happy with not knowing, or that we should not try to learn more in order to answer questions. It simply means that we should remain confident in what we do know, while we gain even more knowledge.

You and I are walking proof of the truth of Christianity. You know what you were like before you met Christ, and you know what you are like now. You have learned many things and changed greatly during your walk with Christ. Often this difference is so deep inside of us that it is impossible for others to see it. That does not mean it is not real.