



Christmas

December 13, 2015
Celebration | 8:45 am
Pastor David Mitchell

Who is Jesus? John 8

Can we answer the big question: Jesus, Who Are You? John 8:25

"So they were saying to Him, 'Who are You?' Jesus said to them, 'What have I been saying to you from the beginning?'"

- **Jesus is the Light of the world.** John 8:12
"I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

- **Jesus is our eternal God.** John 8:14; 1 John 1:5
"Jesus answered and said to them, 'Even if I testify about Myself, My testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going'"
 - He has an eternal past. John 8:14; Colossians 1:15-17; Genesis 16:7-11
"...for I know where I came from..."

 - He has an eternal future.
"... for I know...where I am going..."
 - Jesus in heaven today. Revelation 1:12-18, Hebrews 4:14-16
 - Jesus in a future kingdom on earth. Isaiah 60:19-21
 - Jesus in all of eternity. Revelation 21:23-27

How Should We Respond to This Jesus? John 8:12

"Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, 'I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.'"

- **Therefore, let Him reveal the darkness and ask for your sins to be forgiven.** John 8:23-24, 28
"Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."

John 12:35, 46

- **Then, let His light shine through you to others.** John 12:35; Matthew 5:13-16
"While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become sons of Light." These things Jesus spoke, and He went away and hid Himself from them.

The Temple Lights: Ezekiel 10-12, 1 Corinthians 6:18-20

Digging Deeper:

Jesus did not just randomly stand up one day in Jerusalem and start yelling out, "I am the Light of the world!" To understand the context that He was sticking Himself into and the backdrop of what was happening that day in particular from John 8:12 when He says, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life," only heightens the intensity and the moment in which He testifies that He is God! He says this during the Feast of Tabernacles or Booths, or Sukkot. We know this because in John 7:2 it says, "Now the feast of the Jews, the Feast of Booths, was near."

The backdrop for what is taking place during this feast comes to us from the Mishnah, which is a collection of oral tradition and commentary of Jewish law from rabbis over the centuries. The Mishnah describes the illumination of the Temple during the Feast of Tabernacles. During this pilgrimage feast, there were four candlesticks, 75 feet tall, with four golden bowls on top and four ladders resting against each. Four youths of priestly decent stood at the top of the ladders holding 10-gallon pitchers filled with pure oil which they poured into each bowl. What came from this scene was light so bright that it says, "There was no courtyard in Jerusalem that was not lit up with the light at the libation water-well ceremony" (Sukkah 5:3, a section from the Mishnah) Again, in John 9 Jesus says, "While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world."

And finally in John 10:22-23, we read, "At that time the Feast of the Dedication took place at Jerusalem; it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple in the portico of Solomon." The dedication was a remembrance of cleansing the temple that was desecrated by Antiochus Epiphanes IV and then restored after the Maccabean Revolt. This Feast of Dedication that took place in what we know today as Hanukkah, or the Festival of Lights. We remember and celebrate as we light the menorah that Jesus came into this world as both a light and a servant, inviting us to know and follow Him, the Light of the World.

LifeGroup Discussion:

As you consider who Jesus is, note how He told the religious leaders that He knows where He came from and where He is going in John 8:14.

Read Colossians 1:15-17. What do you learn about Jesus before He was born of a virgin? Describe how powerful Jesus has always been. In what ways do you need His power this Christmas?

Read Revelation 1:12-18. This is Jesus in heaven and He knew where He was going after His ascension. What do you learn about Jesus in this revelation to John?

Hebrews 4:14-16 reveal one of Jesus' roles in heaven. How can He help you today?

Read Matthew 5:13-16. How are you to live out your faith now? Where can you do that this Christmas?

Next Steps:

1. **Join a LifeGroup to find community and support to deepen your faith.**

LifeGroups are small group communities that gather together throughout the week to CONNECT in a smaller setting, GROW together in our faith, and REACH out together to our community. calvarylife.org/lifegroups

2. **Celebrate Jesus as the Light on Christmas Eve.**

Invite a friend to join you for one of Calvary's one-hour Christmas Eve Candlelight services on Thursday, December 24 at 5:00 pm in the Worship Center or at 11:00 pm in the Chapel. calvarylife.org/candlelight

3. **If this season brings you emotional darkness, join us at The Longest Night service.**

Come find comfort and hope on the longest night of the year, Monday, December 21 at 7:00 pm in the Chapel. Christmas is a joyous time, but the realities of life can often bring us heartache and loneliness. In the midst of any grief, loss or pain you are experiencing - let's look to the Light of Christ together. calvarylife.org/longestnight

