

THE JESUS YOU THOUGHT YOU KNEW

Seeing Jesus in John's Gospel

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Lesson 5: When Jesus Leaves No Middle Ground

INTRODUCTION

In John Chapters 8–10, Jesus moves from public controversy to unmistakable self-revelation. No longer speaking indirectly, He declares truths that leave no room for neutrality. He identifies Himself as the Light of the World, the Good Shepherd, and one with the Father. These claims provoke escalating hostility, attempts on His life, and a clear separation between genuine faith and hardened unbelief.

This section confronts every reader with a crucial question: Who is Jesus really—and what will we do with His claims?

READ JOHN CHAPTERS 8—10

A. The Woman Caught in Adultery — Grace and Truth (8:1–11)



The religious leaders attempt to trap Jesus by bringing a woman caught in adultery before Him. Jesus exposes their hypocrisy and offers forgiveness without condoning sin, telling her to “go and sin no more.”

B. Jesus, the Light of the World — Freedom from Darkness (8:12–30)

Jesus declares Himself the Light of the World, promising that those who follow Him will not walk in darkness. He speaks of His divine origin and mission, but His listeners struggle to understand.

C. Children of Abraham or Children of the Devil — True Spiritual Identity (8:31–47)

Jesus challenges those who claim Abraham as their father, revealing that true lineage is determined by obedience to God, not heritage. He exposes their resistance to truth as evidence of spiritual bondage.

D. “Before Abraham Was, I AM” — Jesus’ Eternal Deity (8:48–59)

Jesus makes His clearest claim yet, using God's divine name ("I AM"). The leaders attempt to stone Him for blasphemy.

E. Healing the Man Born Blind — Seeing vs. Blindness (9:1–34)

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking investigation and interrogation by the Pharisees. The healed man grows in faith while the religious leaders grow more resistant.

F. Spiritual Blindness Exposed (9:35–41)

Jesus reveals that those who admit blindness can see, but those who claim to see remain blind.

G. The Good Shepherd — True Care and Protection (10:1–21)

Jesus contrasts Himself with false shepherds. He knows His sheep, calls them by name, and lays down His life for them.

H. "I and the Father Are One" — Final Claim of Unity (10:22–42)

At the Feast of Dedication, Jesus declares His unity with the Father. Once again, the leaders attempt to kill Him, while others believe.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was the test (trap) being set by the scribes and Pharisees in John 8:3-5? Why were the scribes and Pharisees trying to trap Jesus in his teachings?
2. How did Jesus avoid this trap? (John 8:7-9; See also Deut. 13:9 and 17:7)?

3. Jesus' words to the woman caught in adultery gave her forgiveness (John 8:11). First John 1:9 offers forgiveness to anyone who confesses their sins. Does this mean we can continue deliberately sinning since we have this "get out of jail free" verse? Explain your answer.

4. Why were the religious leaders so offended by Jesus' claim, "Before Abraham was, I AM" (John 8:58)? Hint: see [What did Jesus mean when He said, "I AM"? | Hint: click here: GotQuestions.org.](#)

5. In John 9:1-2 what was the assumption the disciples made about the man who was born blind? What was Jesus' answer? How does this relate to us today?

SUMMARY

John 8–10 presents Jesus with unmistakable clarity. He is the Light who exposes darkness, the "I AM" who shares God's eternal identity, and the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep. As opposition intensifies, belief becomes more costly—but also more authentic. These chapters force every reader to confront the truth: Jesus cannot be reduced to a teacher or moral guide—He claims to be God Himself. There is no middle ground!

THREE TAKE-AWAYS FROM THIS LESSON

1. Even though we can ask for forgiveness we are to remember that sin always results in _____.

2. We are to avoid _____ who are experiencing harmful consequences from making poor decisions.

3. We are to avoid the _____ of the Pharisees as we grow spiritually.