

Lesson 13

Jesus' First Warning Of His Departure To Heaven

John 8:21-59

1. Compare verses 21-22 with 7:34-35. They are misunderstanding Jesus. What is at stake in this whole discussion?

John 8: 21-22

21 He said to them again, "I am going away and you will look for me, but you will die in your sin. Where I am going you cannot come."

22 So the Jews said, "He is not going to kill himself, is he, because he said, 'Where I am going you cannot come'?"

John 7:34-35

34 You will look for me but not find (me), and where I am you cannot come."

35 So the Jews said to one another, "Where is he going that we will not find him? Surely he is not going to the dispersion among the Greeks to teach the Greeks, is he?"

2. What do you think Jesus means when He calls Himself "the light of the world" (8:12, 9:4-5, 39)?

John 8:12

12 Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 9:4-5, 39

4 We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work.

5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

39 ⁸ Then Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind."

3. What evidence for us verifies that Jesus' claims are valid (8:14-18, 28)? CCC #653

John 8: 14-18, 28

14 Jesus answered and said to them, "Even if I do testify on my own behalf, my testimony can be verified, because I know where I came from and where I am going. But you do not know where I come from or where I am going.

15 You judge by appearances, but I do not judge anyone.

16 And even if I should judge, my judgment is valid, because I am not alone, but it is I and the Father who sent me.

17 Even in your law it is written that the testimony of two men can be verified.

18 I testify on my behalf and so does the Father who sent me."

28 So Jesus said (to them), "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I AM, and that I do nothing on my own, but I say only what the Father taught me.

653 The truth of Jesus' divinity is confirmed by his Resurrection. He had said: "When you have lifted up the Son of man, then you will know that I am he." The Resurrection of the crucified one shows that he was truly "I AM", the Son of God and God himself. So St. Paul could declare to the Jews: "What God promised to the fathers, this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus; as also it is written in the second psalm, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you.'" Christ's Resurrection is closely linked to the Incarnation of God's Son, and is its fulfillment in accordance with God's eternal plan.

4. Why does everything hinge on who Jesus really is (vs. 25) and who sent him?

John 8:25, 28

25 So they said to him, "Who are you?" Jesus said to them, "What I told you from the beginning.

28 So Jesus said (to them), "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I AM, and that I do nothing on my own, but I say only what the Father taught me.

5. A. What does he mean by each phrase in verse 28?

B. How will this show people that he is the Christ?

6. A. How do people misunderstand Jesus?
- B. How do their lives exemplify darkness?
- C. How can you be a light bearer to them?

7. What does verse 31 mean to you?

John 8:31

31 Jesus then said to those Jews who believed in him, "If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples,

8. What kind of freedom is Jesus speaking of in vs. 33-36?

John 8: 33-36

33 They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How can you say, 'You will become free'?"

34 Jesus answered them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin.

35 A slave does not remain in a household forever, but a son always remains.

36 So if a son frees you, then you will truly be free.

9. What issues does Jesus force us to confront in verses 34-41?

John 8: 34-41

34 Jesus answered them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin.

35 A slave does not remain in a household forever, but a son always remains.

36 So if a son frees you, then you will truly be free.

37 I know that you are descendants of Abraham. But you are trying to kill me, because my word has no room among you.

38 ¹⁸ I tell you what I have seen in the Father's presence; then do what you have heard from the Father."

39 ¹⁹ They answered and said to him, "Our father is Abraham." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works of Abraham.

40 But now you are trying to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God; Abraham did not do this.

41 You are doing the works of your father!" (So) they said to him, "We are not illegitimate. We have one Father, God."

10 What does Jesus say is the ultimate test to show who “belongs to God”? (vs. 42-47) CCC #847

John 8: 42-47

42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and am here; I did not come on my own, but he sent me.

43 Why do you not understand what I am saying? Because you cannot bear to hear my word.

44 You belong to your father the devil and you willingly carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he speaks in character, because he is a liar and the father of lies.

45 But because I speak the truth, you do not believe me.

46 Can any of you charge me with sin? If I am telling the truth, why do you not believe me?

47 Whoever belongs to God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not listen, because you do not belong to God."

847 This affirmation is not aimed at those who, through no fault of their own, do not know Christ and his Church:

Those who, through no fault of their own, do not know the Gospel of Christ or his Church, but who nevertheless seek God with a sincere heart, and, moved by grace, try in their actions to do his will as they know it through the dictates of their conscience - those too may achieve eternal salvation.

11. A. In verse 48, why do people use these terms to insult Jesus? (see 4:29)

John 8:48

48 The Jews answered and said to him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and are possessed?"

John 4:29

29 "Come see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he possibly be the Messiah?"

B. What accounts for their antagonism? (vs.24-27 & 44)

John 8:24-27, 44

24 That is why I told you that you will die in your sins. For if you do not believe that I AM, you will die in your sins."

25 So they said to him, "Who are you?" Jesus said to them, "What I told you from the beginning.

26 I have much to say about you in condemnation. But the one who sent me is true, and what I heard from him I tell the world."

27 They did not realize that he was speaking to them of the Father.

44 You belong to your father the devil and you willingly carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he speaks in character, because he is a liar and the father of lies.

12. What do the following passages mean to you?

A. John 8:51-52

John 8:51-52

51 Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever keeps my word will never see death."

52 (So) the Jews said to him, "Now we are sure that you are possessed. Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'Whoever keeps my word will never taste death.'

B. John 8:56

John 8:56

56 Abraham your father rejoiced to see my day; he saw it and was glad.

D. John 8:57-58

John 8:57-58

57 So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old and you have seen Abraham?"

58 Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, before Abraham came to be, I AM."