

The Names of Jesus: Light

Text: John 8:1-12

Warming Up

Questions:

1. *What do you hope people would say about you when you're gone?*
2. *How do you think Jesus would finish this sentence, if he were only speaking to you: "I am..."*

Digging In

Read **John 8:1-11**.

Questions:

1. *Who do you identify with in this story and why?*
2. *In **Leviticus 20:10** it says that both the woman and the man must be killed in cases of adultery. Why do you think the Teachers of the Law and Pharisees failed to produce the adulterous man?*

This story comes at the conclusion of The Feast of Tabernacles, or *sukkot*. This was a festival that included prayers and priestly rituals around *water*, as a way of asking God for winter rains for the upcoming growing season. It is at this festival that Jesus speaks of himself as *living water* (**John 7:37-38**).

When God is spoken of as "living water" in the Hebrew Scriptures, notice what is written in the dust:

Read **Jeremiah 17:13**.

Questions:

1. *Why do you think Jesus is likely writing these leaders' names in the dust?*
2. *Why is it, do you think, that the older men walk away before the younger men?*

Jesus concludes this encounter with the woman and the religious leaders with this: Read **John 8:8-12**.

Questions: *In what ways is Jesus like light in this encounter with the woman and religious leaders?*

God's light is often associated with fire in the Scriptures. Notice that, in the Scriptures, this fire is set aside for *God's people*: Read **Zechariah 13:7-9**.

We hear this again in the prophet that follows Zechariah: Read **Malachi 3:2-5**.

The earliest Christians talked about God's light like this: Read **1 Corinthians 3:10-15**.

In the Scriptures, God's light is like a fire that **illuminates** our wrong and **liberates** us from it.

Questions:

1. *What is being illuminated in the story in John 8?*
2. *What is God's light seeking to liberate in the story in John 8?*
3. *What wrongs do you think God would seek to illuminate in His people today?*

Sending Out

Jesus doesn't just call *himself* the light of the world in the Gospels. He also calls *us* the light of the world.

Read **Matthew 5:14-16**.

Questions:

1. *In what ways do you think we are called to be the light of the world like Jesus?*
2. *In what ways do you think we are **not** called to be the light of the world like Jesus?*
3. *What do you think God wants to illuminate in you that you might be liberated from it?*

Closing

Take a moment in silence to come before God and ask the question, *"What word or phrase or idea or moment does God want me to remember from this morning and carry with me this week?"*

Close with prayer.