

"Before Abraham Was, I Am"

JOHN 8 • LESSON 10

In **John 8**, as Jesus was teaching in the temple in Jerusalem, the scribes and Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery.

...and placing her in the midst they said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do _____ say?" This they said to _____ him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, "Let him who is _____ sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin _____ more." (8:3-11)

As Jesus begins teaching again, this is the moment when he gives his second "I am" statement—"I am the _____ of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of _____" (8:12).

Listen carefully to the way Jesus backs up such an incredible claim.

"I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the _____ who _____ me bears witness about me."

They said to him therefore, "Where is your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also." (8:18-19)

In fact, Jesus plainly told them, "I am going _____, and you will seek me, and you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come" (8:21). All of this talk they didn't understand or believe led them to ask the most important question of all: "_____ are you?" (8:25). To the Jews who did believe him, Jesus said, "If you _____ in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you _____" (8:31-32).

This talk of being "set free" led some to challenge: "We are offspring of _____ and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it you say, 'You will become free?'" (8:33). But Jesus made clear what sort of slavery and freedom he had in mind: "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices _____ is a slave to sin" (8:34). As the discussion goes back and forth and the accusations of some get uglier, Jesus makes one of the most profound and important statements in all of John's Gospel: "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, _____" (8:58). What did he mean by that? What was he really claiming? And why did some immediately pick up stones to throw at him? Let's talk about it...



For Class & Family Discussion:

- As you look back on [John 8:1-11](#), what shows us the real aim and mindset of the scribes and Pharisees who brought that woman to Jesus?

- What should we make of Jesus' answer to them in [8:7](#) and his words to the woman in [8:10-11](#)? What are we being shown about the heart of the Son of Man?

- In your own words, what did Jesus mean when he boldly proclaimed, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" ([8:12](#))?

- Throughout [John 8](#), Jesus mentions "the Father" quite a bit ([8:16, 18-19, 26-29](#)). Why do you think that is?

- What argument do you think some of these scribes and Pharisees were making as they emphasized that *their* father was Abraham ([8:33, 39, 53](#))?

- In fact, Jesus diagnosed them as having a different father altogether ([8:39-47](#)). What does it mean to be "of your father the devil"?

- Something really significant seems to happen when Jesus says, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am" ([8:58](#)). Why is this one of the most important statements from Jesus we will ever read?

- Let's wrap up by thinking through what Jesus said in [8:31-32](#), "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." What do we need to carry with us from those words this week?