

**I. DARKNESS BLINDS**

A. Then spake Jesus unto them again (vs. 12)

1. Brings us back to vs. 2 – in the temple
  - a. Note: In the treasury (vs. 20) – court of women
  - b. He had been teaching the temple (early in the morning)
    - i. They had threatened Him, tried to take Him
    - ii. They sought to kill Him
    - iii. But there He is teaching again
  - c. And all the people came unto Him
    - i. This is critical to remember
    - ii. The Bible tells us that ALL of them came
  - d. They rudely interrupted the His discourse
2. We won't let the woman of the hook
  - a. She was taken in the very act (as we discussed previously)
    - i. But where was the man?
    - ii. The LAW of GOD required that BOTH be put to death
    - iii. Not just the one
  - b. The Jews were trying to catch our Lord
    - i. With one of His most precious attributes
    - ii. Convict Him of error by targeting His love for the World
    - iii. Sing it o'er and o'er again! Christ receiveth SINFUL men!
    - iv. And praise God He does!
  - c. Where would we be if Jesus refused to save sinners?
  - d. All have sinned and come short...
3. They threw her down before Jesus (vs. 3)
  - a. To see what He would do
  - b. Instead of convincing Jesus of error
  - c. He convicted them of their sin!
4. But here are a new batch of Pharisees (vs. 13)
  - a. Why new?
  - b. The old ones all left in vs. (9)

B. Their darkness had blinded them (vs. 12)

1. They didn't see
  - a. That they had only brought one of the two caught in the act
  - b. That Jesus had come to seek and to save which was lost
  - c. That their own sin had dimmed their eyes
  - d. That Jesus was the Light of the World
2. They didn't see the transforming power of the Gospel
  - a. They didn't know how the Love of Jesus changes everything
  - b. Look what it did for one person (vs. 10)

- c. She called Him “Lord”
    - d. Took away the condemnation (vs. 11)
    - e. Brought her out of darkness to walk in newness of life
  - 3. After such an episode of spiritual darkness
  - 4. Jesus answered with this amazing statement (vs. 12)
    - a. Such a stark contrast
    - b. A dazzling Light of Righteousness
    - c. Brighter than the noonday sun
- C. But they couldn’t see it! (vs. 13)
  - 1. You almost want to say, “That’s all you got?”
    - a. He just uttered one of the most sublime speeches ever recorded
    - b. And they want to talk about witnesses?
    - c. Weren’t they listening in back in chapter 5? (5:31)
    - d. He not only GAVE them that argument but also DISPROVED IT!
  - 2. Chapter after chapter
    - a. Chapter 6
      - i. After feeding 5000, He refers to the MANNA
      - ii. And declares Himself to be the Bread of Life
    - b. Chapter 7
      - i. At the feast of Tabernacles, He refers to the water from the Rock in the Wilderness Wanderings
      - ii. And declares Himself to be the Water of Life
    - c. Chapter 8
      - i. After demonstrating the darkness in the hearts of men
      - ii. He declares Himself to be the Light of Life
    - d. Bread to nourish, Water to quench the spiritual thirst, and Light to order our steps!
  - 3. Walk in the light!
    - a. Ephesians 5:8 – “For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:”
    - b. 1 Thessalonians 5:5 – “Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.”
    - c. 1 Peter 2:9 – “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:”
    - d. 1 John 1:7 – “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

## II. DARKNESS BINDS

- A. They were bound by their sin (vs. 21)

1. Galatians 5:1 – “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.”
    - a. The HOPE program uses this as the key verse
    - b. God is telling Christians to KEEP their liberty
    - c. That means FREEDOM
  2. Enslaved to sin, bound by darkness
    - a. Whither I go, ye cannot come (vs. 22)
    - b. He says this three times in the Book of John
    - c. The meaning is clear: The lost CANNOT go to Heaven
- B. Qualified to Judge (vs. 15-16)
1. He didn’t come to judge
    - a. The world is ALREADY judged
    - b. Sin is ALREADY wrong
    - c. He came to seek and to save that which was lost
  2. He was qualified to judge, but instead came to offer God’s Grace!
  3. Luke 9:56 – “For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village.”
- C. You cannot see in the dark
1. John 3:19 – “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”
  2. Those who are bound in the dark, cannot see themselves!
  3. James 1:23 – “For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:”

### III. DARKNESS BULLIES

- A. Thy record is not true (vs. 13)
1. A single testimony any other man might not be admissible in court
    - a. But that doesn’t mean it isn’t true
    - b. They refused to grant Him common courtesy
  2. They saw the witness of the Father
  3. They KNEW the witness of the Father
  4. That’s why they wanted to KILL the Son!
  5. The healing of the impotent man
- B. Where is thy Father (vs. 19)
1. They didn’t say “who is thy father?”
    - a. They insinuated that Jesus was born of fornication
    - b. Either besmirching the reputation of Joseph or Mary or both
  2. They didn’t know God, therefore they couldn’t recognize the Messiah
    - a. Vs. 14 – I “come” vs. I “came”
    - b. I came speaks to His incarnation in this World
    - c. I come speaks to this specific group of listeners

3. The flesh says let me see and I will believe
  4. But Faith says, Believe! And you will see!
- C. Will He kill Himself? (vs. 22)
1. Insulting, but He will go to the Cross
  2. Vs. 28 – THEN shall ye KNOW I am He
    - a. The sky will go black
    - b. The veil in the temple will rend in two
    - c. Even the centurion recognizes that Jesus truly is the Son of God!
  3. Focused only this present world (will He kill Himself?)
    - a. As if they've forgotten Eternity exists
    - b. Jesus said they were from "beneath" (vs. 23)
    - c. 1 John 2:15 – "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

#### IV. DARKNESS BURIES

- A. The saddest part (vs. 21)
  1. You'll realize you needed me, but it will be too late
  2. The Spirit of God will not always strive with men
  3. And there will be a division (The rich man and Lazarus – great gulf fixed)
- B. The grave is a very dark place
  1. Death and darkness, you have to understand how opposite from God
  2. He said in Gen 1:3 – Let there be LIGHT!
  3. But HE is the Light of Life
- C. 1 John 1:5 – "This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all."

#### V. LIGHT FREES

- A. Many believed on Him (vs. 30)
  1. Some controversy in the commentaries
  2. But I just know what the Bible says – they believed
    - a. That's what the Bible says – Paul and Silas told the jailor
    - b. Act 16:31 – "And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."
  3. He addressed them specifically based upon their belief
  4. True belief comes only after seeing Christ for who He truly is
    - a. And seeing ourselves for who we truly are (conviction)
    - b. Faith and repentance go hand-in-hand
    - c. And the entire context of the chapter is conviction (1-11)
    - d. Conviction of sin sets the stage for the entire chapter!
- B. A stark contrast
  1. Vs. 21 says they were bound to death by sin

2. Vs. 32 says the TRUTH shall make you free
- C. Continue in His Word
  1. Continuing in His Word shows discipleship
  2. And yields great benefits!
    - a. Knowing the Truth
    - b. And by the Truth, being made free!
- D. Be Saved Today!