

It is a Light Judgement, but it is not a light Judgement
John 8:12-20

Jesus has just finished speaking to Pharisees, scribes and the woman take in adultery.

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." ¹³ So the Pharisees said to him, "You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true." ¹⁴ Jesus answered, "Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for 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 according to the flesh; I judge no one. ¹⁶ Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father^[a] who sent me. ¹⁷ In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true. ¹⁸ I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me." ¹⁹ 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." ²⁰ These words he spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple; but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

First: The Context - Love

It would seem the "them" of verse 13 and the "temple" of verse 20 would imply that he is once again speaking to the Pharisees and scribes.

For an incarnated, omniscient God, this is child's play –

Luke 2:46-47 - After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

Why do I say that the context speaks of God's love for us?

*And when I think that God, His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art*

Second: The Subject: Light. 12

This is the 2nd of Jesus's 7 'I AM' statements

- I am the bread of life – 6:35
- I am the light of the world – 8:12

- I am the door of the sheep – 10:7-9
- I am the good shepherd – 10:11, 14
- I am the resurrection and the life – 11:25
- I am the way, the truth, and the life – 14:6
- I am the true vine – John 15:1-5

In each, Jesus words are translated using this Greek phrase = *ego eimi*

Exodus 3:14 – *Ehyeh asher ehyeh* (I am the one who is) = *ego eimi ho on*

Jesus is claiming to be the God of the OT and the only true God who has always been or ever will exist.

As “light,” Jesus bears witness to

- God
- Himself
- The world

John 1:4 - *In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

John 3:19-21 - *And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹ But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”*

Jesus reiterates this in verse 8b - *Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.*

Third: The Argument 13-15

The Pharisees accuse Jesus of bearing witness about himself. The law prescribed two witnesses for things to be held up as true.

But Jesus countered with **17-18** - *¹⁷ In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true. ¹⁸ I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me.”*

The Father bears witness about the Son...

Matthew 3:16-17 - *And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove*

and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷ and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Luke 24:4-6a - While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. ⁵ And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here, but has risen.

Acts 2:24, 32; 3:15; 4:10; 5:30; 10:40; 13:30, 34, Ro 6:4, 8:34; 1 Thess, 1:10; Hb 13:20 – "God raised him from the dead."

Fourth: The Father's Judgement 16-17

Jesus's witness is true because

- I know where I came from and where I am going
- I judge no one
- The father who sent me also judges

Acts 16:31 - he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.

What does the Father judge?

1 – That Jesus is His Son

How much does the Father love the Son?

Matthew 3:17 – This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Matthew 17:5 – This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

Mark 12:6 – He had still one other, a beloved son.

Luke 20:13 – Then the owner of the vineyard said, 'What shall I do? I will send my beloved son;

John 15:9 – As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.

John 17:23 & 26 - I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.... I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

We know that God loves us because He sent Jesus to the cross

1 John 4:19 - *In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world,*

Note: God's love is the source, not the consequence, of the atonement. . . .

God does not love us because Christ died for us.
Christ died for us because God loved us.

But does the Father love the Son even though He sends him to the cross?

Ephesians 2:9-11 - *Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

1 – The Father loves Jesus enough to let him create everything, displaying Jesus's glory

Genesis 1:3 - And God said

John 1:3 - *All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

Hebrews 1:2 - *in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.*

2 – The Father loves the Jesus enough to allow the Fall

Hebrews 2:10 - *For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.*

The cross was not an afterthought, not a plan 'B.'

Ephesians 1:4 - *as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world*

3 – The Father loves Jesus Enough to Judge all the world by him

Acts 16:31 - *he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.*

Job 9:32-35 - *For he is not a man, as I am, that I might answer him, that we should come to trial together. ³³ There is no arbiter between us, who might lay his hand on us both. ³⁴ Let him take his rod away from me, and let not dread of him terrify me. ³⁵ Then I would speak without fear of him, for I am not so in myself.*

But this is not just a judgement of Christians

Matthew 25:31-34 & 41 - *When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world...41 - Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.*

Or as Paul summarizes it -

Philippians 2:9-11 - *Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

V 19 - *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."*

Conclusion:

²⁰ *These words he spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple; but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.*

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