

BIBLE READING DAY 23, MONDAY: MARCH 21

I AM the Light of the World

John 8:12–59

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

“You are bearing witness to yourself,” said the Pharisees. “Your testimony is not valid.”

“Even though I am bearing witness to myself, my testimony is true,” replied Jesus, “for I know where I have come from, and where I am going. But you do not know where I am from or where I am going. You are judging me according to appearances; I am not judging at all. And yet if I am declaring a verdict, my verdict is true, for I do not stand alone: the Father who sent me is with me. It is written in your law that the testimony of two men is true: I am bearing witness to myself, and the Father who sent me is bearing witness to me.”

“Where is your father?” they asked.

“You know neither me nor my Father,” replied Jesus. “If you knew me, you would know my Father also.”

These things said Jesus in the treasury, as he taught in the temple. But no one arrested him, for his hour had not yet come.

Again, Jesus said to them, “I am going away, and you will seek me, but you will die in your sins. Where I am going, you cannot come.”

Then said the Jews, “Is he going to kill himself? Is that why he said, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come’?”

“You are from below,” said Jesus, “but I am from above. You are of this world, but I am not of this world. That is why I told you that you will die in your sins. For unless you believe that I am he, you will die in your sins.”

“Just who are you, anyway?” they asked.

“I am just what I am telling you,” replied Jesus. “There is much I could say about you—much I could condemn. But he who sent me is true, and I am declaring to the world what I have heard from him.”

They did not understand that he was speaking to them of the Father. Then said Jesus, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but I am saying these things only as my Father has taught me. And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him.”

As he said these things, many believed in him. Then said Jesus to the Jews who believed in him, “If you continue in my teaching, you are truly my disciples. And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

“We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone,” they replied. “Why do you say, ‘You will be made free’?”

“I tell you truly, everyone who lives in sin is a slave of sin,” replied Jesus. “Now a slave does not continue in the household forever, but a son does. Therefore, if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are descendants of Abraham; yet you are seeking to kill me, because my word is unacceptable to you. I am declaring to you what I have learned from my Father, and you are doing what you have learned from your father.”

“Abraham is our father!” they replied.

“If you were really children of Abraham,” said Jesus, “you would do the things Abraham did. But instead, you are seeking to kill me—a man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. This is not the kind of things Abraham did. You are doing the works of your real father.”

“We were not born of fornication,” they replied. “We have one Father—God!”

“If God were your Father,” said Jesus, “you would love me, for I came forth from God. I have not come of my own accord, but the Father sent me. Why is it that you do not understand what I say? It is because you do not want to listen to my word. You are of your father the devil, and you wish only to practice the lusts of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and did not continue in the truth, for the truth is not in him. When he lies, he is speaking true to form, for he is a liar and the father of lies. And because I speak the truth, you do not believe me. Who of you can prove me guilty of sin? But if I am speaking the truth, why do you not believe me? He who is of God will listen to the words of God; but you will not listen, because you are not of God.”

“Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan, and demon possessed?” replied the Jews.

“I am not demon possessed,” answered Jesus. “I am honoring my Father, and you are dishonoring me. But I am not seeking glory for myself; there is One who seeks my glory, and who judges. I tell you truly, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.”

“Now we know you are demon possessed!” said the Jews. “Abraham died, and so did the prophets. But you say, ‘If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’ Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Just who do you claim to be?”

“If I honor myself,” said Jesus, “my honor is worthless. It is my Father who honors me, whom you say is your God; but you have not known him. But I know him, and if I should say that I do not know him, I should be a liar like you. But I know him and keep his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day; he saw it and was glad.”

“You are not yet fifty years old,” said the Jews, “and have you seen Abraham?”

“I tell you truly,” said Jesus, “before Abraham was, I am.”

Then they picked up stones to hurl at him. But Jesus vanished in the crowd and went his way out of the temple.

Approximate Timeline of Jesus’s Public Ministry

EARLY LIFE	EARLY MINISTRY	1 st Feast of PASSOVER	SUMMER	1 st Feast of BOOTHS	WINTER	2 nd Feast of PASSOVER	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	SPRING
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DEVOTIONAL DAY 23 (MONDAY MARCH 21)

Don't Miss the Opportunity of a Lifetime

Based on John 8:12-59

Have you ever had the opportunity of a lifetime and you let it slip past you? Was it because of anxiety due to the fear of messing up (not going for that dream job)? Was it because we did not know a lot about the opportunity and missed on something profitable (an investment or entrepreneurship)?

Sadly, many can miss wonderful opportunities because of their pride because they either believe they are too good for it ("It's not that grand."), or they're entitled to the rewards without putting in the labor ("I've already paid my dues!"). As we learn all throughout Scripture, boldness and wisdom are things the Lord can equip us with by trusting Him, but humility will come when we put to death our pride that closes our ears to important voices. Who is more important than the Son of God Himself?

In the context of our Scripture today, the Lord Jesus was engaged in a dispute with the Pharisees. They challenged His identity as the Messiah, which they refused to accept. Jesus states that their denial of His divinity stems from their love of the world (John 8:23).

Loving the world and not setting our mind on things above can make us miss the opportunity of pursuing a relationship with Jesus and knowing Him. In Matthew 6, Jesus warned that treasures on Earth are temporary and can be destroyed or taken from us. When we pursue what Heaven offers, we can have something eternal and pure. One of these things is a relationship with the "I Am", the eternal God who was before all of Creation and the beginning and end of all things. The One who was before Adam, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and David. The "I Am" who calmed the seas with a spoken word and will end all evil with a spoken word.

Our pride and our sin are what stops us from this relationship. The mindset that we must question God instead of submitting to His Lordship. When we surrender our pride and put to death our sin, we can know Jesus, the "I Am", and be set free by the "Truth" (John 8:31, 36).

Jesus died to free us from sin. In entering a relationship with Him, Jesus frees us to truth. All things are created by Him for His glory! Let us live for His glory, not ours! He is the "I Am" by which goodness will prevail. He is the "I Am" that will reign forever.

Lord, You are great! Before Abraham was, You were. Lord, often we try to usurp You and take rule for ourselves, foolishly ignoring how infinitely wise and powerful You are. Yet, You are quick to welcome us as the father of the prodigal welcomed his son back. Keep us fast to You and never waiver. Amen.

"The opportunity of a lifetime needs to be seized during the lifetime of the opportunity."

— Leonard Ravenhill
Revival Praying

--By Robert "Pastor Bud" Olmstead

WRITE DOWN YOUR THOUGHTS IN RESPONSE TO WHAT YOU HAVE READ:

WHAT DID GOD SAY TO ME?

PRAYER: WHAT DID I SAY TO GOD?

ACTS OF PRAYER: ADORATION, CONFESSION, THANKSGIVING, SUPPLICATION (How God Can Supply Needs

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