

Sermon Notes

Doubt Has Its Reasons (part 3)

John 8:12-30

A. Bigotry (12-20)

[12] Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life." [13] So the Pharisees said to Him, "You are testifying about Yourself; Your testimony is not true." [14] Jesus answered and said to them, "Even if I testify 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 am not judging anyone. [16] But even if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone {in it,} but I and the Father who sent Me. [17] Even in your law it has been written that the testimony of two men is true. [18] I am He who testifies about Myself, and the Father who sent Me testifies about Me." [19] So they were saying to Him, "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; and no one seized Him, because His hour had not yet come.

B. Blindness (21-30)

[21] Then He said again to them, "I go away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin; where I am going, you cannot come." [22] So the Jews were saying, "Surely He will not kill Himself, will He, since He says, 'Where I am going, you cannot come'?" [23] And He was saying to them, "You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. [24] Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am {He,} you will die in your sins." [25] So they were saying to Him, "Who are You?" Jesus said to them, "What have I been saying to you from the beginning? [26] I have many things to speak and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and the things which I heard from Him, these I speak to the world." [27] They did not realize that He had been speaking to them about the Father. [28] So Jesus said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am {He,} and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me. [29] 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." [30] As He spoke these things, many came to believe in Him.

For Further Thought and Discussion

Getting Started

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?
2. So far, we've seen four sources of doubts in John 7: familiarity, intellectualism, prejudice and peer pressure. Do any of these give you insights into your own doubts about Jesus or into the doubts of people you know?

Going Deeper

3. Please read John 8:12-20. What does Jesus mean when He says that He is the light of the world? How does the response of the Pharisees to Jesus illustrate bigotry? How do they insult Jesus rather than prove Him wrong? How do people do the same today? How does Jesus answer their insult? What is the difference between judging according to the flesh and judging righteously?
4. Please read John 8:21-30. How does this passage illustrate spiritual blindness? What causes spiritual blindness? Is there a cure? Can you identify a time when you were spiritually blind? What does Jesus mean by *"When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am {He,} and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me?"*
5. How can both bigotry and blindness be sources of doubts? What can we do when we discover doubts caused by either in ourselves?

Application

What is one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?