



Small Group Notes - John 8:12-30 - Returning to His Father 2

Some groups may find the following suggested questions a helpful starting point. Don't feel bound by them, rather work at understanding God's word for yourselves, praying that God will help you live in the light of it.

A note on John 8:1-11

Almost all of the earliest and most reliable manuscripts do not have these verses in. Those that do contain these verses put them in different places. It is most likely that this incident did occur but that John didn't have it as part of his original Gospel.

Into God's Word - Read John 8:12

On the last and greatest day of the Feast of Tabernacles, having claimed to be the water that gives eternal life (7:37) Jesus now claims to be the light of the world, the light of life.

Question: Light is a rich Bible image. Explore Exodus 13:20-22 and Isaiah 42:1-9. How do these old testament passages add to our picture of what Jesus is claiming about Himself?

Application: In the 'light' of who Jesus is, maybe spend a couple of moments now in prayer as a group, giving praise and thanks for Jesus, the Light of the World.

Now Read John 8:13-26

Having claimed to be the Light of the World the Pharisees refuse to accept Jesus' claim. Draw up a chart with two columns. In the first column list the reason why the Pharisees are unable to accept Jesus claim, first in verses 12-20 and then in verses 21-26?

Application: This is a sad verdict on the historic people of God. How do these verses help us understand different reasons why people might reject Jesus today?

Now in the right hand column list the different ways Jesus authenticates His claim, first in verses 13-20 and then in verses 21-26?

Application: How does what Jesus says encourage us to trust Jesus more deeply?

Finally Read John 27-30

Question: Up to this point things have looked desperate for the historic people of God. What grounds for hope are there in verses 27-30?

Conclusion

Question: *'I made a commitment to religion a long time ago, so I know I am saved.'* How would you respond to this opinion? (answer from the passage). What are the marks of a true believer? What good news is there for the true believer?

Now spend time in prayer.

Pray in the 'light' of the passage. Pray that our trust in Jesus will deepen. Pray for those we know who make worldly judgments about Jesus. Praise Jesus for all he has done for us.