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**Spring 2024**  
**It's All About Jesus**

**Sermon Title:** Jesus is the Son of God

**To be used with Session 3:** The Identity of Jesus

**The Point:** Jesus invites us to identify with Him.

**Scripture:** John 8:12-29

**Connection with the Study:** To complement the Bible study “The Identity of Jesus,” this sermon examines an exchange between Jesus and a group of Pharisees who challenged Him to explain exactly who He is. They asked Jesus not just who He is, but also who His father is, and how His claim to be the Messiah could possibly be valid.

**Introduction:** Indoor lighting is really a great modern invention that we take for granted all too easily. Think about it: when walking into a dark room, our instinct tells us to turn on the lights! We generally assume that in most rooms, on the wall, next to the door, will be a switch, and that a quick flick of that switch will illuminate the room. Once the lights are on, we can freely see what we are doing and go about our business. We don’t give it much thought, but that light doesn’t just magically happen! The light comes from a power source somewhere else in town, where electricity is generated and sent out through wiring so that we can have the convenience and beauty of light. When Jesus compares Himself to light, it is so much more than just indoor lighting! How can we truly appreciate the light of the world we see in Christ?

### **1. Jesus is the light of the world (John 8:12).**

This passage sits in the context of Jesus teaching at the temple during a Jewish feast, and onlookers were trying to determine just who He is. Many were fascinated by this preacher from Galilee, and according to the previous chapter (John 7:12), “Some were saying, ‘He’s a good man.’ Others were saying, ‘No, on the contrary, he’s deceiving the people.’” Who exactly was this Jesus?

The next day Jesus returned and told them that He is the light of the world and anyone who follows Him “will have the light of life.” There is no doubt that Jesus was stating in clear terms that He is the Messiah. This proclamation from Jesus recalls Old Testament passages associating God with light. These include passages such as Psalm 27:1 (The Lord is my light and my salvation); Isaiah 9:2 (The people walking in darkness have seen a great light); and Psalm 56:13 (For you rescued me from death ... to walk before God in the light of life). Jesus was more than a good man or a wise teacher. He is the very light of God, as John writes, “In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. That light shines in the darkness, and yet the

darkness did not overcome it” (John 1:4-5).

## **2. Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:13-20).**

The Pharisees quickly dismissed the testimony of Jesus, saying that He testified about Himself. Such a claim could only be believed if someone else was making the claim along with Him, and in Jewish law, a claim was only considered valid if there were two or more witnesses to it. Undeterred, Jesus took things to another level. He told them that His claim is backed up by the Father—God Himself.

Jesus was making a powerful claim to be the very Son of God. He was speaking to the most educated and religiously knowledgeable men of His time. When He told them that they don’t know where He came from or where He was going and that the Father sent Him, it is clear He was not speaking in earthly terms. The religious leaders knew where He came from: Galilee. And there were many who knew that He grew up in Joseph’s household. Yet it is clear He was not speaking of His hometown, nor of Joseph, but of heaven where He dwelt with God His Father. He would return there again and they, in their sin, would never enter heaven.

## **3. Jesus reveals Himself to us as God (John 8:25-26).**

After Jesus told them that He is “not of this world,” they still didn’t understand what He was saying. Or maybe they did understand and just didn’t want to believe it. In verse 25 we see they finally asked the plain question, “Who are you?” Jesus responded by saying that He is “exactly what I’ve been telling you from the very beginning.” How could they not yet know who Jesus is? It is true that there could be little question about it. As C.S. Lewis famously said, Jesus was openly claiming to be God, with such a claim making Him either Lord, liar or lunatic.

Thousands of years later, we still ask the same question of who Jesus really is, but the answer remains the same. Jesus is exactly who He said He is: the Messiah sent from God, the light of the world. Jesus is the only One who is fully God and fully man, who lived a perfect, sinless life.

**Conclusion:** Who is Jesus? One of the most striking passages of Scripture involves Jesus asking the disciples who people say He is (Matt. 16:13-20). As expected, they gave the usual answers of Jesus being a prophet or specifically the prophet Elijah returned to earth. Then He asked a more pointed question; He asked who *they* said He was. Peter correctly responded that Jesus is the Messiah.

We are each required to answer the same question. With all the evidence, who do we think Jesus is? A good man? A wise teacher? Or the Son of God foretold by the prophets, who brings us light in the darkness and life lived to the fullest? When we confess that He is Lord, we can see the world through His eyes, in His light, and we are forever changed.

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