

March 23, 2025

The Light of the World
John 8:12-59

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 8:12 (NIV)

*Sometimes something is right in front of you,
but you _____.*

OVERVIEW

***Court of the Women:** Courtyard located between the Court of the Gentiles and the Court of the Israelites.*

- Contradiction 8:12-18
- Cynicism 8:19-32
- Denial 8:33-47
- Insult 8:48-52
- Sarcasm 8:53-58
- Violence 8:59

How People Can Miss the Light:

1) _____: Processing information in a way that supports desired conclusions. Luke 11:34-35; John 8:37; 40

To see the Light, we must be able to differentiate between our _____ and the Jesus of scripture.

2) _____ **belonging & Identity:** Reluctance to break from my tribe. John 8:33; 39; 41; 52; Rom 13:14

To see the Light, we must be able to differentiate between _____ of Jesus and the Jesus of scripture.

3) _____ & _____: The allure of a simple explanation can cause us to accept simplistic answers to complex problems. John 8:40

To see the Light, we must be able to differentiate between perspectives of Jesus that are _____ with the Jesus of scripture.

TALK IT OVER

Because we believe that the sharing of our ideas and beliefs enhances our spiritual growth in ways teaching alone cannot - we encourage you to join a small group at Sunridge and discuss some of the following questions.

What stood out most in the message to you regarding something that you learned, challenged you, or that you disagreed with? And, in what ways can you see these truths being lived out in your relationships and life this week?

Read through John 8:12-59 and note things that stand out. Share your observations with the group.

What do you think Jesus meant when he said he is "the light of the world?" In what ways has he been your light?

Which of the three reasons for why people reject truth do you believe is most common? In what ways do you see that bias affect people's perception of political, scientific, or spiritual truth today? Which of the three do you think influences you most? How does this affect how the gospel is interpreted today?

In what ways have your perceptions of Jesus changed because of scripture?

In what ways do you think American culture needs Jesus to be redefined today? What can Christians today do to influence those changes?



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but you just can't see it.*

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- Violence 8:59

How People Can Miss the Light:

1) **Motivated Reasoning:** Processing information in a way that supports desired conclusions. Luke 11:34-35; John 8:37; 40

To see the Light, we must be able to differentiate between our preferred Jesus and the Jesus of scripture.

2) **Social belonging & Identity:** Reluctance to break from my tribe. John 8:33; 39; 41; 52; Rom 13:14

To see the Light, we must be able to differentiate between societal perspectives of Jesus and the Jesus of scripture.

3) **Complexity & misinformation:** The allure of a simple explanation can cause us to accept simplistic answers to complex problems. John 8:40

To see the Light, we must be able to differentiate between perspectives of Jesus that are incongruent with the Jesus of scripture.

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