I came across a story this past week about the late great Ray Stedman. He was a Bible teacher, author and pastor of a church in California several years ago. And during his younger years he shares a story about when he was enroute from Dallas to California. While he was driving he decided to pick up a few hitchhikers along the way. As he picked up these hitchhikers and they were driving along, he connects with them, and he shares with them a little bit about the journey. And he says, ‘Hey, have you guys been to the Grand Canyon before?’ And they said, ‘No, we haven’t.’ And he said, ‘Well, maybe we ought to camp out there and stay and see the Grand Canyon in the morning.’

So as they were making their way through Arizona, they took an exit and made their way to a place where they could camp out. And it was pitch black on this night. They finally parked the car, got out and they went about in blackness trying to find a place to lay down their sleeping bags. They unrolled the sleeping bags, got inside of them and went to sleep. And Ray Stedman said when he woke up in the morning; he began to yawn and to stretch out. And he realized that when he put his arm up above his hear that his arm just went limp. And he realized in that moment, when the lights were turned on, so to speak, that God had protected him because when he sat up camp, had he walked about two steps further, he not only would have seen the canyon, he would have been in the canyon. He literally missed it by two steps. So all night long there they were sleeping in the darkness an arm’s length away from the canyon. Can you imagine what he must have felt when he woke up that morning and realized it was a good thing he had not taken an extra two steps because he would have died in the canyon. The moral of the story is ‘don’t walk in the darkness.’

And I don’t know what it is when it comes to this idea of darkness. I can’t explain it fully. But there is something about people that are drawn to the darkness. And you have heard me share about when I was a younger kid how I loved my Star Wars. I had my room decorated in Star Wars wallpaper, and I had one of those original helmets when Star Wars came out in 1997, the Darth Vader mask. I still have it in my office today if you come in. There is a little bit of the dark side in Pastor Bobby’s office where you can see that mask which I have had for over 30 years of my life now.

But as a kid I can remember that feeling of being drawn to the dark side. And if you sit out there today and you can’t relate in any way, you are completely deceived, if you don’t think that there is any part of you that is drawn to the dark side. It takes Christ, it takes the Holy Spirit, and it takes God working in our lives in such a way that we will desire Him. And when we desire God it is because the Holy Spirit is working in our life. And so I realize that when I wonder why I was drawn to the dark side as a kid growing up. And that is what got me in so much trouble.
So why are we drawn to the dark side? Well, there are a few reasons. One of the reasons is we are born with a sinful nature. You inherited a sinful nature. And when you were born you inherited a nature that had a natural propensity towards the dark side. You have a natural inclination to move towards a direction that is displeasing to God.

Why else are we drawn to the dark side? It is because it hurts when the light is shed abroad on us and shows us our sins. It hurts to see the light. How many of you have ever been sleeping in the dark and you had closed the curtains making the room pitch black. And someone comes into the room and flips on the light switch and your eyes open and you go owww. What do you do? Well, we are like little bugs that are hanging out in a dark kitchen and the light goes on and the bugs zip off to hide out. So we cover our eyes. And it is because we don’t really want to look at our sin. We really don’t want to see our dark side.

Why else are we drawn to the dark side? Frankly, because we love our sin more than we love our Savior. We love the dark side more than the light. We love the ways of the world more than the ways of the creator of the world. In fact, in the book of John we read these verses. John Chapter 3 and verse 19 and 20 says this. “And this is the judgment that light has come into the world. And people love the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light lest their works should be exposed.”

We don’t want our sin exposed so we hide out in the dark. But you will never experience all that God has in store for you; you will never experience fullness of life until you are ready to get real with who you are. And one of the things that God does when we get saved is He begins to show us the depths of the darkness of our hearts. And even before you become a Christian - if you are out here in the room and you are thinking man, I am just sort of exploring Christianity, it is so important that you begin to grasp what really is going on in all of our hearts, that we have a sinful nature. And we desperately need God.

So as we continue on in this series, More than a Man, we are going to come to this passage in John Chapter 8 this morning. And the title of this message is ‘Blinded by the Light,’ because as individuals, as people, instead of being guided by the light, we are often blinded by the light. We don’t want to come into the light lest our sins be exposed, or our hearts be exposed. And we are going to look at this passage of Scripture today starting in John Chapter 8 and verse 12.

But before we jump into that remember that there are four different gospels in the New Testament. They are Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. And as I have shared with you before each of these gospels help to shed light on a different aspect of Christ. The gospel of Matthew shows Jesus as king. The gospel of Mark portrays Jesus as a suffering
servant. The gospel of Luke shows Jesus as the son of man, and focuses on His deity. But the gospel of John, the study that we are in, focuses on Jesus as the son of God. And that is why we call this series, ‘More than a Man.’ Jesus was not merely a man, He was more than a man. He always existed as God, but He took on human flesh.

And so we come to John Chapter 8 and verse 12 and you will remember that last week we sort of dealt with the passage on the woman who was caught in adultery. And we dealt with this passage around the idea of forgiveness. And we know that in your Bibles, unless you have a King James Version or the New King James Version, or maybe a few other versions, it says ‘The earliest manuscripts do not include these verses.’ And I shared with you that our best manuscripts skip John Chapter 7 and verse 53 through Chapter 8 and verses 1 through 11. And that is the story of the woman who was caught in adultery. And I said that I believe that this is still an authentic story, though it was not part of the original manuscripts.

We know the last verse of John says, “Jesus did many other things, and if they were all written I suppose that the libraries could not contain all that was done.” And I told you that I believe that the story of the woman taken in adultery was one of those many things that Jesus did. So we have one of those stories that is authentic but is not in our best manuscripts.

So now we come to John Chapter 8 and verse 12 and Jesus is still at the Feast of Tabernacles. And as we have been making our way through John Chapter 7, we said that Jesus showed up at this feast known as the Feast of Tabernacles. Now let’s remember what this feast is because if you are a guest with us today, it is going to be imperative that you get what this feast represents. There were different feasts that were set up in the Bible that the Jewish people would come together and celebrate. And the Feast of Tabernacles was an annual feast where the Jewish people from all over Jerusalem and Palestine would come together. And what they would do is they would live in temporary tents or booths. And it was to remember the children of Israel who wandered in the wilderness for 40 years while they lived in tabernacles or they lived in booths.

So after they were delivered from the wilderness and they went into the Promised Land, they set up a feast called the Feast of Booths or the Feast of Tabernacles which were just synonymous terms. So here Jesus shows up on the last day of this feast. We have talked a little bit about His invitation, that is “Anyone who drinks of Him, they will never thirst again.” And we will come back to that.

But now we come to this passage and Jesus is at this feast and we know that He has been rejected over and over again. So let’s begin with verse 12. “Again Jesus spoke to them saying, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” I strongly debated just preaching this one verse
alone because there is so much here. So I may spend a good chunk of our time unpacking this one verse for you, and then moving down to verse 20.

Notice the first word in that verse, ‘again.’ Again what? Again Jesus spoke to them. Again, after being rejected over and over and over again. You have to be extremely secure to be rejected the way that Jesus was. One of the reasons we as humans don’t share the gospel with people is we fear rejection. You have to be a very secure person to be able to really live the bold Christian life because part of being a bold Christian, part of sharing the truth means that people are going to reject you at times. And if your main goal is to be a people pleaser, to get everybody to like you, you are going to have a hard time living a fully orbed Christian life.

But here Jesus in this situation goes in again. I mean what do we do when someone rejects us? We write them off, don’t we? You reject me and I reject you. You reject me and I am going to distance myself from you. You reject me and I am going to give you the cold shoulder. But Jesus just keeps going back and pursuing and showing love. Reaching out to the people and showing them that He is their way and their hope. And it is just astounding to me how much Jesus is unlike myself and unlike us as individuals. And it is because He is God in the flesh, because He is more than a man. So again He keeps pursuing.

There have been times in my life where I have found myself struggling to say hello to people because of fearing rejection. I like to say hi to people but I can tell you there have been times when I am walking through a mall and I say hi to someone and have them just literally look right through me. And it is so uncomfortable. And then after saying hi and getting no response I get mad and I have to repent for judging them because I said hi to them and they didn’t say anything back.

So then at times I have started walking through the mall and I get selective with my hellos. Well, this person looks pretty grumpy, so I am not going to say hello to him. He wouldn’t give me a hello back. So what I do is I start saying hi to those who are the harmonizers in the crowd. And I start looking for that Golden Retriever personality that kind of has those big eyes, and you can tell they are friendly. But people that look like me and they have deep set eyes, I don’t say hi to them. They make me a little nervous.

So Jesus is back in this situation again and He is still after them and sharing with them. And it says, “Again Jesus spoke to them saying, I am.” This is the second ‘I am’ statement that we come to in the gospel of John. He has already said, “I am the bread of life.” He would use these different statements where He would say ‘I am’ followed by a description. In the gospel of John there are seven of them. And we know that He said, “I am the bread of life,” and that would speak to the fact that if you come and you feast on Him you will be nourished. And a lot of the stuff that was taking place was He was
showing Himself to be the fulfillment of what was taking place with Israel. They feasted on bread daily for forty years. It was temple bread, and it gave them enough to be nourished one day at a time, but Jesus said He was better than that bread. **“I am the bread of life.”** He is eternal bread, He is eternal nourishment.

So He comes along and He sort of fulfills that picture that was taking place. Just as God supplied on a daily basis that bread in the wilderness, that bread of life has now come into the world. Bread has been incarnated. It has come into the world. And He shows Himself as satisfaction. He said, **“I am the vine,”** meaning we need to stay rooted in Him if you are going to bear spiritual fruit. He said, **“I am the door,”** as we will later see. In other words He is saying He is the direction you need to go if you want to experience eternal life.

John Chapter 14 and verse 6 says, **“I am the way, the truth and the life, and no one gets to the Father except by me.”** And He was being very exclusive in that. You know what; the only way that you are going to get to Heaven is through Him. He said, **“I am the good shepherd.”** And He uses these ‘I am’ statements to talk about who He is. And when you enter a relationship, you enter through the door that will lead you to Heaven. And you are led by the great shepherd, Jesus Christ. And what does a shepherd do? He leads the sheep in the right direction. And when you become a Christian, that is what Jesus, the great shepherd does. He puts you on the right pathway. He makes sure you are going in the right direction.

So He comes here and He says, **“I am the light of the world.”** And that is such an astounding statement. You have to put yourself in their shoes and really feel the weight of that. To say, **“I am the light of the world,”** is a big statement. Can you imagine if I stood up here this morning and said, ‘Hey, welcome to church, and if you are a guest with us I serve as one of the pastors here, but I also want you to know that I am the light of the world.’ You might be thinking that makes me a little bit nervous here, right?

Jesus doesn’t say I am a light, He says, **“I am the light.”** If you want to find clear direction in life, you need to look at Jesus. It is by Jesus that everything else makes sense. It is when you see that light that everything else in life makes sense. Life will never make complete sense until you place your faith in Jesus Christ. The Bible says, **“God uses the foolishness of the gospel to save people.”**

When I placed my faith in Jesus it was amazing that once I just trusted the light that my eyes were opened and I realized how blinded I had been with my ideologies beforehand. Everything becomes crystalized when you are in the light. And Jesus is the great guru. You have heard me say before that gu means darkness and ru means light. A guru is someone who leads someone out of the darkness and into the light. And that is what Jesus does. He is a glorious guru. Not some Hindu guru, He is the true Messiah.
that leads us in the right direction. He says, “I am the light of the world.” It is bigger than just being a light to the Jews. He is a light to the Gentiles. He is a light for all peoples. He is not a God who shows distinction among the races.

And what I love about Jesus is He was an eclectic Savior. That has been on my heart lately. That has been heavy on my heart. I know we live in an area in Lake Norman that is probably 94 percent Caucasian with young families in the middle to upper class. But I would dream of us being a church that would do a better job of seeking diversity. That we would take the light and show that we are not just the light of the upper class white community. That we want to take the light of Jesus Christ to those who live on the streets, or in a tent, or in a trailer. And yes, to those who live in a lake house and on the weekends can go to their mountain homes. We want that light to be taken not only to the young, but we want to take the light of Jesus Christ to the old. We want to take the light of Jesus Christ not just to folks that look like us with light colored skin, we want to see us reaching out to African Americans, and Latin Americans, and Asians, and diversifying the church.

What would it look like for us as a church if every year for the next three years we could say we want to see our church grow 10 percent more in diversity, in ethnic diversity? What would it be like in three years to see our church have 30 percent in diversity and 70 percent white in this area? I think it would be a beautiful picture to try to see that happen. And I think that we should be intentional. I think we should figure out ways to be intentional.

I am going to be honest with you; I have been meeting some African American friends as I am out in restaurants. And I met one waiter at Mimi’s Café and I met a guy who was African American at IHOP and I began to share with them and talk about Jesus, and I began to share about our church. And both of them said they would be interested in coming. And I told them I want you to know something. Our church as a lot of white people in it, and I want you to know that my heart’s desire is to diversify the church. And I told them we need African Americans who have a pioneer spirit, who are willing to come into a church where they might feel there aren’t many African Americans. And I hope that they could come in with a vision to help diversify this church.

And it has been such wonderful conversations. And what is amazing is that my African American brothers don’t mind if I talk about how I have a heart for diversity. I want to see diversity take place in our church. And I am so grateful for the diversity we already have in our church because it is awesome. And I wonder what would you do? Would you go into a church that is all African American that is only 2 or 3 percent white? I hope so. Would you go into a church that is all Latin American with only 2 or 3 percent white? I hope so, because Jesus loves the world. And as I have said before He is not color blind, He loves colors. And He wants us to be a diversified church.
This should get us excited. And I want our African American brothers and sisters, and Latin American brothers and sisters when they come through these doors to not need to feel any differently. God has no racism in His heart. And I am sick to death of any talk of racism or any classism with the rich and the poor. We have to get out of our cliques and we have to get more eclectic. We have to start loving those who are creative and diversified. You know you have heard me say before that I get people telling me that I need to dress business/casual. Why? So I can look like you? We don’t need everybody looking the same. We need diversity. Right? I may get an email for that. Bring it on.

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world, whoever follows me.” So He is about to get to something here. And what He is saying is that whoever follows Him, this promise is for them. Do you want to know what that promise is? Here it comes. “Will not walk in darkness.” The key to getting out of living in darkness is to walk with Jesus Christ. Jesus and darkness don’t mingle in the sense that He will never lead you into the darkness. They mingle only for the standpoint of pulling you out of the darkness. And that is what Jesus does. He leads us out of darkness and into the light.

Listen to this verse in 1 John. It says, “If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, cleanses us from all sin.” Many people claim to really walk in the light, but their deeds are just filled and blanketed with darkness. And what the Bible says is we are lying. We are living hypocritically. There is a deceptiveness to this.

And so I would encourage you to search your heart. It is not a good sign if you are comfortably living in the darkness. We all have areas to grow. If you are sitting here, it means that you are sitting here with work still to be done. It is being called, we are being sanctified, myself included. We all have work to do. That protects us from that smug, self-righteous spirit that just drives me nuts. A Pharisaical spirit that gets inside the church where people just think they have it all together. And oftentimes the self-righteous people love when I start preaching repentance. And they sit right up for that. Well, we do need to repent, but it should break our hearts that we need to repent.

“Will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” Are you ready for a little nugget right here? Let’s look at this verse one more time. It says, “Again Jesus spoke to them saying, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” Here is Jesus at the Feast of Tabernacles on the last day of the Feast. And I shared with you a few weeks ago how Jesus said, “If anyone drinks of me, he will never thirst again.” And what He was saying in that statement was that He saw Himself as the fulfillment of a ceremony, the water pouring ceremony.
I shared with you how there was a water pouring ceremony, and there was also a ceremony of the light. So there would be a water pouring ceremony and this ceremony would be when the priests and the Levites would leave the temple and they would walk with their golden pitchers down to the pool of Siloam. And I said they would get some water out of the pool of Siloam and as they walked back towards the temple, people would be dancing in the streets, they would be singing praises out to God. And the priests would be pouring water on the pavement of the street, and ultimately they would come to the frontal base of the altar and they would pour more water out. And this was a ceremony to commemorate, or to remember, the fact that God had provided water for the children of Israel out of the rock.

And when Jesus says, “If anyone drinks of me he will never thirst again,” what He was saying is the ceremony of the water pouring was for them to remember how God satisfied their thirst through the rock back then, which satisfied their temporal thirst. But if they drink of Jesus, their eternal thirst will be forever fulfilled. And in the imagery in the Old Testament of water pouring God fulfils that satisfaction, and He talks about He will send the promise of the Spirit.

And then with the ceremony of the light, this would take place inside the temple. There was the Court of Women which was on the right, and in this Court of Women they would come together and there would be four huge candles, four huge lights. And there would be these big golden bowls filled with oil. And for the wicks they would use the priests’ rundown garments. And they would take the four huge candles and they would light these four huge bowls up each night during the Feast and it would just shine out over Jerusalem.

But they would wait until the final night to light the finest candelabras. And then they would light that light on the final night. They would wait until the last night because it depicted that salvation was not complete, that there was more light coming. They were looking for the future Messiah, the future light to come. In that context, on the last night when they would light up that light that would depict that there was more light coming, Jesus declares, “I am the light of the world.” He is the light that goes over the walls and reaches out into the world for people to be saved. And He says that light is Him. Isn’t that beautiful? And the fulfillment of understanding Hebrew Scriptures and what is taking place behind the scenes of all this helps us to appreciate the glory of God’s word.

And that is what Jesus was doing in that moment. He is not being selective in the sense of racist. Yes, He has His bride, yes, He has His elect, but He is not distinguishing between poor and rich, He is not distinguishing between African American and white, and between Latino and Asian. We know that Jesus saves us, and if He does not move in our hearts we are desperate without Him. We know that according to Romans Chapter
And so are you hungry for the light of the world this morning? Are you tired of walking in darkness? Are you confused? Are you aimless? Are you struggling wondering what your purpose in life is this morning? Do you have the certainty and the hope in your heart that when you die you are going to go to be with Jesus Christ? Well, when we believe in the light, we will no longer walk in the darkness. We will no longer live in the darkness. There will be some dark spots along the way, but part of sanctification is we get saved, we are declared righteous, and each and every day of our lives we should be heading more and more and more toward the light. We should be leaving actions of darkness.

So let’s look at how they respond to Jesus here. You need to understand that these people are blinded by the light. And I will say this. First of all, failing to grasp the true identity of Jesus will keep you spiritually blinded. Let me repeat that. Failing to grasp the true identity of Jesus will keep you spiritually blinded.

Look with me in verse 13. “So the Pharisees said to Him, You are bearing witness about yourself. Your testimony is not true. Jesus answered, Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I come from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going.” They did not recognize or apprehend the true identity of Jesus. He has already talked about the fact that if they will drink of Him they will never thirst again. He has said, “I am the light of the world.” He said, “I am the bread of life, I nourish.” But they did not apprehend who He was. And failing to grasp the true identity of Jesus will keep you spiritually blinded.

Have you ever mistaken someone’s identity? Someone who is supposed to be special to you? Those of you who have been here for a while know my story of when I was pastoring at Celebration Church in Conway, Arkansas. I looked up and saw this lady who I thought was my wife at the coffee table. She was filling her coffee cup and I walked up behind her and I started massaging her shoulders. And she turned around and she looked at me, and I’m going, ‘Oh my goodness, I’m so sorry.’ And this lady was a first time guest of the church. And I said again, ‘Ma’am, I am so sorry, I thought you were my wife.’ And this lady never came back to Celebration Church again.

I can just imagine the story around town. ‘Free massages at Celebration Church by the pastor.’ So I made a huge mistake and took this lady for my wife. And I was so wrong even though I thought I was so right. Her shoulders even felt like Heather’s. I am
teasing now. Some of you out there are just kind of prudish and can’t believe I said that. It is not a big deal, just lighten up, okay?

But there is this idea where in this culture they were mistaking Jesus’ identity. And it can even happen today. People today still mistake the identity of Jesus Christ. We see it all the time. We see that people just fail to see who He truly is. And Jesus wants us to know that He is the light of the world. We don’t need to miss this. It is like seeing the sun, it is just clear, it is evident. We need to realize that Jesus is our only hope.

The next thing I want to bring out is this. Judging Jesus according to human standards will keep you spiritually blinded. They didn’t understand His identity as we looked at. They said He was bearing witness about Himself in verse 13, and that’s because in that culture, for instance in the case of accusing someone of death, you had to have a couple of witnesses. And here Jesus is saying He doesn’t need the testimony of another. So then we know that judging according to human standards will keep you spiritually blinded.

Look with me if you will at verse 15. “You judge according to the flesh.” That is what Jesus told them. Now the flesh could mean you judge according to appearances, externally, or you judge according to the human nature, according to the fleshly nature, according to human standards. By my point, I lean towards taking it as they judged according to human standards. And people do that all the time. They judge Jesus according to human standards, by what everybody else says about Him. And that is why we have a thousand different Jesus’ out there today, right? There’s a bunch of different Jesus’ out there, all over the place that you see.

You have the Jehovah’s Witnesses who believe that Jesus used to be Michael the archangel. You have Muslims who believe Jesus was one of the prophets, but not the Son of God. You have Mormons who believe that Jesus had three wives, Mary, Mary Magdalene and Martha, and they believe that Elohim, God the Father, came down and physically impregnated Mary to produce Jesus. And that Jesus was the brother of Lucifer. You have the New Age Jesus. You have all these different Jesus’ and they have missed it. Jesus is the Son of the living God. And we have to get His identity. We have to see who He is. And we cannot judge Him according to human standards.

I was witnessing to a guy at a gas station a few weeks ago in Blowing Rock. And as I was talking to him at this gas station, he began to share how he was a Christian, but he didn’t think it mattered what other people believed. And so I said, well, let me paint a picture for you. And Dr. Norman Geisler taught us this in apologetics. But I just basically shared something that shared his world view in one moment, because you can’t be a Christian relativist. He said I am a Christian but I believe others can believe whatever they want, that’s fine for them. But that doesn’t work. So I said to him in a
loving way, ‘Let’s paint a scenario. Suppose you have your beliefs and then suppose there is an atheist who believes there is no god, a Theist who believes in a god, a Polytheist who believes in many gods, and a Relativist who says it doesn’t matter what any of these people believe, they are all right. Well, that can’t work, because if the Relativist says this, God cannot not be in Atheism and be in Theism. And if God is, He is either one or He is many.’ And in that one moment, that one statement, this man realized that his world view didn’t work.

And I told him I just wanted him to think about that and I would be back to visit with him in a couple of days. So I went by the gas station a couple of days later but it was busy so we weren’t really able to get into what I had said because he was busy working. But we need to understand that we can’t judge Jesus according to human standards, to what everyone else thinks. What was this man doing? He was falling into the culture of Relativism; it doesn’t matter what you believe, believe whatever you want.

Jesus says, “You judge according to the flesh, but I judge no one.” Now we know in John Chapter 5 that it says that Jesus will judge. Jesus didn’t come to earth to judge, He came to earth to save, but He will be a judge. We know that if we look in the Bible in Matthew Chapter 25 we see that someday in the end time Jesus is going to separate the sheep from the goats. And the sheep will go to Heaven and the goats will go to hell. Listen to this verse in Romans where it says He will judge our secrets someday. “On that day when according to my gospel God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.”

Did you know you might be able to carry a secret on earth, but your secrets will be completely exposed in the presence of God someday? You can’t hide your sin from God. There is nothing you can hide. God sees you, men, when you roll out of bed at 12:30 at night and go get on your computers. And those secrets are being stored up for the Day of Judgment. Not only that, but according to Revelations we know that Jesus will judge in righteousness. He will judge according to righteousness, so we will be judged by God’s standard. And that is why you desperately want Jesus Christ, because when you believe on Him, you are declared righteous.

The third point I want to draw out is this. When you reject Jesus’ words, this will keep you spiritually blinded. I said failing to grasp the true identity of Jesus will keep you spiritually blinded. I said judging Jesus according to human standards will keep you spiritually blinded. And now rejecting the words of Jesus will keep you spiritually blinded.

Look at verse 16. “Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge but I and the Father who sent me.” So if they wanted another witness, there you go; Jesus had it, His Father. The Father declared it; we saw it at Jesus’
baptism, and at the transfiguration. Jesus was Father approved. Verse 17, “In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true. I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me. They said to Him therefore, Where is your Father? Jesus answered, You know neither me, nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.” He is saying they are lost because they reject His words. And so the result of their blindness is that they are lost.

Look at verse 20. “These words He spoke in the treasury as He taught in the temple, but no one arrested Him because His hour had not yet come.” So Jesus comes to this place and He lets them know they have rejected His words, they have rejected the light and they have rejected His offer of refreshment. They don’t believe He is the bread of life, they don’t believe He is the door or the good shepherd, and they are lost. They are lost because they are judging according to human standards. They are lost because they don’t understand His true identity, that He was with the Father and He came into the world incarnate. And He would be raised from the dead and He would be going back to the place where He once was.

I want to ask you a question right now. Do you know Jesus Christ? It is dangerous to go through life without Jesus Christ. If you don’t know Jesus Christ, you are like Ray Stedman; you are sleeping in the dark. And if you don’t place your faith in Christ, you will wake up in eternity to find that you fell into the abyss. And I would encourage you to place your faith in Jesus. You may say, why and how? The Bible says that we are sinful, and the Bible says that Jesus Christ died on a cross and shed His blood for our sins. Three days later He rose from the grave. And if we will believe on the Lord Jesus Christ we will be saved.

In John Chapter 12 and verse 35 Jesus said this, “The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going.” Let’s pray.

Father, thank you for your word. We ask that your word would work powerfully here today. We pray that the light of the world, your Son Jesus Christ, would light up the Lake Norman area. I pray that we would go and shed light, not selectively on certain races or certain classes, but on everyone. I pray for those here today that might not know you. If you are here and you know that is you, that you are confused and don’t know Jesus Christ. If you have never become a Christian, and you would like to be forgiven of your sins this morning, the Bible says, “Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”
I want to ask you in the quietness of your heart just to say something like this:
Dear Jesus, I am a sinner. I want to be forgiven of my sins. I believe you died on a cross and rose from the grave. I believe you came to the earth to save me. And I ask you to be my Savior right now.

God, I just pray for everyone here today that if there is any sin in our lives that we will start walking in the light. In Jesus’ name. Amen.