

Woodland Baptist Church
 March 16, 2014 - Morning Worship
 John 8:21-30 - The Light of the World, Part 2

1) READ JOHN 8:21-30

2) Verses 21-22 DWELLING in DARKNESS blinds us from the Savior

a) **21** So he said to them again, "I am going away, and you will seek me, and you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come." **22** So the Jews said, "Will he kill himself, since he says, 'Where I am going, you cannot come?'"

- i) **I am going away** - going to heaven - returning to the father; Christ is telling them that very soon, he will be physically leaving the earth to return to his heavenly dwelling with God.
- ii) **You will seek me** - what's Christ means by "me" is the promised Messiah; after the real and promised Messiah, Jesus Christ, has been crucified, resurrected from the dead and ascended into heaven...the Jews will continue to seek the promised Messiah...but there will be one huge problem...he will have come and gone...and will have been murdered at their prodding.
- iii) **You will die in your sin** - notice Jesus says this three times in this passage; that is why I titled the message that way - this is no lifting message, this is a harsh and extremely convicting message Christ is giving his people...*you will die in your sin...you would die in your sins...you will die in your sin...*
- iv) **Where I am going you cannot come** - why can't they? They rejected him... whoever rejects cannot go where he goes...whoever rejects him cannot inherit the kingdom as He is the only way to the Kingdom...he is the Light of the Word, without him you cannot see or enter the Kingdom of God and you will die in your sins.
- v) **Jews, said, "Will he kill himself since he says, "Where I am going, you cannot come?"**

- (1) Let's avoid the sin and death talk and let's focus on something else - where is he going? He claims to be going somewhere that we cannot go... the only explanation for that would be that he plans to commit suicide.
- (2) *Quoting Dr. Borchert, NAC* - "So they posited the possibility of his suicide, an idea that was acceptable to Greek philosophy but was totally repulsive to Jewish thinking. Indeed, the rejection of suicide was so strong that according to Josephus there should be no public funerals for suicide bodies.¹⁷⁵ Moreover, the rabbis argued that since the person who committed suicide could not pay with his life for the shedding of his

blood (cf. Gen 9:5), that person was bound to spend the life hereafter in a state of damnation." [I know that suicide has probably touched everyone in here at some point or another - I do not believe that just because someone commits suicide they go to hell]

- b) What he means is that because they reject him, they will die in their sins because their sins will not be forgiven...therefore when they die they, no matter how bad they may want to, they cannot go where he is going....yes Christ would die, but he would not kill himself...they would kill him and because of that, would be locked out of the very kingdom they thought they controlled.

3) **Verses 23-24 Our EXISTENCE involves two different REALMS**

- a) **23 He said to them, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. 24 I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins."**
 - i) **Ephesians 3:10-12 - 10 so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. 11 This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.**
 - ii) **Philippians 3:18-21 - 18 For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.**
- b) Now Christ explains to them a reality that they must understand to understand what he is saying:
 - i) **You are from below** - you are of Adam - you are of the world, under the curse and judgment of God; you are a member of the Genesis 2 world - cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; 18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. 19 By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

- ii) **I am from above** - Jesus came from “above” meaning heaven - Paul described it as 2 Corinthians 12:2-4 - 2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. 3 And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows — 4 and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter.
- c) Christ came from a place that we have never seen and that we do not know and do not understand - it has only been revealed in Scriptures and only limited the Scriptures - Revelation has more description.
- i) **You are of this world; I am not of this world. 24 I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins.”**
- (1) **Luke 16:22-23** - 22 The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, 23 and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side.
- 4) **Verses 25-27 DARKNESS prevents us from UNDERSTANDING truth**
- a) **25 So they said to him, “Who are you?” Jesus said to them, “Just what I have been telling you from the beginning. 26 I have much to say about you and much to judge, but he who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him.” 27 They did not understand that he had been speaking to them about the Father.**
- i) **The Jews ask him - who are you?** You can't tell by the text if Christ suddenly got their attention with how he was speaking or if they are being condescending when they ask “who are you?”
- b) Jesus' story has not changed; this is the same rhetoric he has been preaching from day one and they will not hear it! His claims have been consistent and controversial; he has been extremely hard to deal with by the religious elite; they have been outflanked, outdebated, publicly humiliated... 'What I have said all along. **26 I have much to say about you and much to judge, but he who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him.” 27 They did not understand that he had been speaking to them about the Father.**

i) That's what darkness does! It prevents us from understanding truth - Paul says in **Romans 1:24-25** - **24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, 25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.**

(1) The lie was that the law could save them - what is the lie you have believed and exchanged for the truth? You'll know what it is, because when it is touched or challenged you will come apart at the seams, just like the Jewish leaders are about to against Christ. It's so valuable that God had to send his son to die to seal it.

5) **Verses 28-30 The CRUCIFIXION and RESURRECTION exonerated Christ**

a) **28 So Jesus said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just 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 was saying these things, many believed in him.**