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The Sermons of Jesus Christ: The Temple Treasury Sermon

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THE SERMONS OF JESUS

THE TEMPLE TREASURY SERMON (Jn. 8:12-59)

“These words spake Jesus in the treasury, as he taught in the temple: and no man laid hands on him; for his hour was not yet come” (John 8:20).

- **The conflict with some unbelieving Jews**

A. Their question

1. They wanted to know who He was (John 8:25.)
2. They wanted to know who His father was (John 8:19).
3. They wanted to know if He claimed to be greater than their father Abraham (John 8:53).

B. His answers

1. Concerning Himself

- a. He was the light of the world (John 8:12).
(1) His temple treasury sermon (also known as the Light of the World Discourse) was probably the second of two preached during the Feast of Tabernacles. Here Jesus claims to be the Light of the world.
- b. He came to bring light and life to all (John 8:12).
- c. He was the Messiah (John 8:24, 28).
- d. He was sinless (John 8:6).
- e. He was from above (John 8:23).
- f. He would become the Lamb (John 8:28).

2. Concerning His Father

- a. He came from the Father (John 8:18, 42).
- b. He was the Son of the Father (John 8:19).
- c. He was taught by the Father (John 8:28).
- d. He was honored by the Father (John 8:54).
- e. He spoke for the Father (John 8:26).
- f. He would ascend back to the Father (John 8:21).

3. Concerning Abraham

- a. He was greater than Abraham, for He preceded Abraham—*“Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am”* (John 8:57-58).

- (1) Their statement here gives us an insight concerning the awesome pressure and burden carried by our Lord. Here He is, barely thirty-three, and yet mistaken for nearly fifty. We note that Jesus did not say, "I was," but rather, "I am." Here He was simply replying as he once did to Moses:

"And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you" (Exod. 3:14).

- b. He was greater than Abraham, for He ministered to Abraham—

"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad" (John 8:56).

- (1) When did this happen in the life of Abraham? It was probably a reference to the offering up of Isaac. Compare Gen. 22:1-14 with Heb. 11:17-19.

C. Their accusation

1. That He alone bore witness of Himself (John 8:13)
2. That He was threatening suicide (John 8:22)
3. That He was born of fornication (John 8:41)
 - a. Note their sneering insinuation, *"We be not born of fornication" (8:41)*. This is but one of several occasions on which the Jews made snide remarks questioning the unusual circumstances surrounding Christ's birth. When our Lord later healed a blind man, the Pharisees refused to believe it, telling the cured man to *"Give God the praise. We know that this man [Jesus] is a sinner" (John 9:24)*.
4. That He was a demon-possessed Samaritan (John 8:48, 52)

D. His defense—

"Jesus answered and said unto them, Though I bear record of myself, yet my record is true; for I know whence I came, and whither I go; but ye cannot tell whence I come, and whither I go ... It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true. I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me ... Jesus answered, I have not a devil; but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me. And I seek not mine own glory: there is one that seeketh and judgeth" (John 8:14, 17-18, 49-50).

E. Their errors

1. That they had never been in bondage (John 8:33)
2. That they were the true seed of Abraham (John 8:33, 39)

F. His correction—

“Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin ... They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham’s children, ye would do the works of Abraham. But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham ... Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it” (John 8:34, 39-40, 44).

G. Their rejection—

“Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by” (John 8:59).

H. His condemnation—

“I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins” (John 8:24).

- **The conversion of some believing Jews**—*“As he spake these words, many believed on him. Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free ... If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed ... Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death” (John 8:30-32, 36, 51).*