



Believe

JOHN

MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Jesus in the Courtroom

Bible Reading: John 8:12-30

[Watch LIVESTREAM at 10am](#)

? Confrontation

- A. We avoid it
- B. Jesus didn't avoid it
 - 1. Crucial matters need to be confronted
 - 2. Need wisdom to know what is crucial
- C. Begins in chapter 2 – cleansing of the temple
- D. Confrontation centered around:
 - 1. Who Jesus is
 - 2. Where did he come from
 - 3. What did he come for
 - 4. His relationship with God the Father
- E. If we are standing for Jesus, eventually we will confront matters that will need to be addressed.

? Courtroom scene and characters

- A. Courtroom drama/lawsuit throughout the gospel
- B. Jesus the accused – representing himself
- C. Pharisees and Jews the accusers – representing themselves
- D. Jesus the judge – judging together with the Father

? The Courtroom drama

- A. First round – 8:12-20

1. Declaration by Jesus – v. 12
2. Pharisees' reaction/accusation of Pharisees – v. 13
 - a. "Your testimony is not valid"
3. Jesus' response/defense – vv. 14-18
 - a. My testimony is true because of my source
 - b. You judge according to human standards
 - c. My judgement is true because I judge with the Father
 - d. Two witnesses
4. Pharisees' response – v. 19a
5. Jesus' response – v. 19b

B. Second round – 8:21-29

1. Jesus' declaration – v. 21
2. Jews' response – v. 22
3. Jesus' response/judgment – vv. 23-24
4. Jews' response – v. 25 – who are you?
5. Jesus' response – v. 26
6. Jesus' final declaration – vv. 28-29

? Who is Jesus? – The "I AM"

A. Every person will one day, sooner or later, need to come to terms with who Jesus is. Cannot brush him away. What will you do with Jesus?

B. He is not of this world – 8:23

C. The "I AM" that we are to believe in – 8:24

1. Points to Yahweh – Exo. 3:14

D. The one who will be lifted up – 8:28

1. When he is lifted up – the cross and exultation
2. Then they will know he is the "I AM"

E. The light of the world – 8:12

1. On the evening of its first day there was a ceremony called *The Illumination of the Temple*.
2. Anyone who follows will never walk in darkness.
3. The followers will have the light of life.
4. What does it mean to follow?
 - a. Believe – believe that I AM
 - b. Don't argue
 - c. Don't merely agree
 - d. But follow him