

Title: Look I Am Jesus - John 8:12-30

Read:

¹²Jesus once again addressed them: "I am the world's Light. No one who follows me stumbles around in the darkness. I provide plenty of light to live in." ¹³The Pharisees objected, "All we have is your word on this. We need more than this to go on." ¹⁴⁻¹⁸Jesus replied, "You're right that you only have my word. But you can depend on it being true. I know where I've come from and where I go next. You don't know where I'm from or where I'm headed. You decide according to what you can see and touch. I don't make judgments like that. But even if I did, my judgment would be true because I wouldn't make it out of the narrowness of my experience but in the largeness of the One who sent me, the Father. That fulfils the conditions set down in God's Law: that you can count on the testimony of two witnesses. And that is what you have: You have my word and you have the word of the Father who sent me." ¹⁹They said, "Where is this so-called Father of yours?" Jesus said, "You're looking right at me and you don't see me. How do you expect to see the Father? If you knew me, you would at the same time know the Father." ²⁰He gave this speech in the Treasury while teaching in the Temple. No one arrested him because his time wasn't yet up. ²¹Then he went over the same ground again. "I'm leaving and you are going to look for me, but you're missing God in this and are headed for a dead end. There is no way you can come with me." ²²The Jews said, "So, is he going to kill himself? Is that what he means by 'You can't come with me'?" ²³⁻²⁴Jesus said, "You're tied down to the mundane; I'm in touch with what is beyond your horizons. You live in terms of what you see and touch. I'm living on other terms. I told you that you were missing God in all this. You're at a dead end. If you won't believe I am who I say I am, you're at the dead end of sins. You're missing God in your lives." ²⁵⁻²⁶They said to him, "Just who are you anyway?" Jesus said, "What I've said from the start. I have so many things to say that concern you, judgments to make that affect you, but if you don't accept the trustworthiness of the One who commanded my words and acts, none of it matters. That is who you are questioning—not me but the One who sent me." ²⁷⁻²⁹They still didn't get it, didn't realize that he was referring to the Father. So Jesus tried again. "When you raise up the Son of Man, then you will know who I am—that I'm not making this up, but speaking only what the Father taught me. The One who sent me stays with me. He doesn't abandon me. He sees how much joy I take in pleasing him." ³⁰When he put it in these terms, many people decided to believe.

Think:

You spend all your time trying to be Jesus to your friends. You take an interest in their daft hobbies. You watch out for them when everyone else is picking on them. You even invite them to stuff that is put on by your youth leader and still they don't seem to be interested in Jesus? Can't they see what you are doing? Can't they see Jesus in you? Well I really do understand your frustration. I mean, day in day out we study the Bible together and do these devotionals, and yet there are still people that don't understand about Jesus. Maybe we should all just pack it up and go and do what ever we want to do. I mean, after all, if we have chosen to follow Jesus, we are going to Heaven anyway. But then we see this passage, where yet again Jesus is being misunderstood. Yet again, the Son of God is getting slapped down, when he is physically in front of people. What does he do? Ah yes, yet again, we are reminded that he goes on to die on the cross, for these very same people. It's a message that we are reminded of frequently in Jesus life on Earth, but it is a definite example for us. So each day we too must do the same. Each day we must go back to the very people that missed the point yesterday and once more take an interest in their daft hobbies. Once more we must care for them when no one else does. Once more we must try and be Jesus to them.

Pray:

Lord your gift of Jesus to us was a free gift, but not one without an expense in our life. Now that we have accepted that gift, please give us the strength we need to live the life that says thank you. Amen.

Action:

Hey we know it is hard. So next time you think why am I doing this, turn to Jesus. At that very moment just ask Jesus for help and strength. Cheerio.