



November 6, 2022

*“The Light of the World”*

*SS 9:30, Service at 10:30 with King’s Kids.*

News:

**Wednesday Classes 6:30-8:00**

330 N. Somers Rd. (Mail: PO Box 10626) Kalispell, MT 59904~ (406) 755-1776

Visit the website ~ [www.myaletheia.com](http://www.myaletheia.com)

Like us on Facebook (aletheiachristianfellowship)

Emails: [pastor@myaletheia.com](mailto:pastor@myaletheia.com), [stacey.sundt@myaletheia.com](mailto:stacey.sundt@myaletheia.com)

In the Pericope Adulterae:

- 1) The point wasn’t that no human can judge another, but that humans charged with the sacred duty of judging must do righteously.
- 2) The point wasn’t that sin was no big deal, but the opposite. Grace is only Grace if sin is a big deal. Sin is such a big deal that it cost God His human life. Jesus said, “go and sin no more!”
- 3) Grace implies Judgment. Jesus was “left alone” as the sole Judge.

### **John 8:12&13 ~**

This is the second of seven formal “I AM” statements in John’s Gospel. In addition to these we have several informal “I AM” statements as well.

In Greek it is ἐγώ εἰμι (ě-gō) (ā-mē).

Both the formal and informal “I AM” statements are unusual grammatically, syntactically, and contextually. When taken with name of God in the Old Testament, they are definite claims of divinity equal with God (Exodus 3:13–15).

In John 6:35 we saw a formal one and in John 4:26 we saw an informal one (8:58).

*Fill out the other side, detach this part of the page, and place it in the offering plate or the prayer/suggestion box in the lobby or with an Elder or Deacon of the church.*

*God Bless You!*

This statement concerning the Light is the only one that seems out of context. That's because we miss the link to the Pericope Adulterae. A sure proof that the incident is original and in the correct place.

It shows dramatic Grace. Salvation is unnecessary if there's nothing to be Saved from. Salvation implies Judgment (James 1:17, Hebrews 10:31) Light has to do with Truth, which has to do with perfect Judgment.

To understand we must keep this in context with the opening (John 1:4&5). The fact that Life exists at all is a testament to the One Who bestows and sustains Life. That fundamental, foundational, Truth is the Light. that can illumine man's thinking.

That's what John 3:19 means, "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil." Again, the theme is Judgment.

The Pharisees understood that He was claiming a Savior role, but more, they were struck by the implied Judging of them and all others who did not "Follow Jesus" as walking around in the dark.

### **John 8:14–20 ~**

What makes Jesus' testimony about Himself and the Father and the Spirit entirely true and valid, and what makes His judgment perfect, is He is never alone.

Verse 17, Jesus went back to what is valid in court technically. "You said that I need another witness to corroborate my testimony about Myself, well I call My Own Father to the stand!"

Had they understood which Father and more importantly known that Father, they would have also known Jesus and accepted Him as Emmanuel.

In verse 20 we get a specific location and another mention of how the Jews couldn't arrest Jesus. The two things seem unrelated. They are not... There was no place on earth that was more under the direct control of the Jewish leadership than the Treasury.

---

Write a brief note – detach and place in the offering, or the prayer box, or give it to a Deacon or Elder.

---



---

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



# lêtheia

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP




lêtheia  
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

the gospel of

# JOHN

ΕΝΑΡΧΗ Η ΝΟΛΟΓΟΣ ΚΑΙ Ο ΛΟΓΟΣ ΕΗΝ ΠΡΟΣ ΤΟΝ  
 ΘΝ ΚΑΙ ΘΕ ΤΗ ΝΟΛΟΓΟΣ ΕΥ ΤΟΣ Η ΝΕΝΑΡΧΗ ΤΙΡΟΣ  
 ΤΟΝ ΘΝ ΠΑΝΤΑ ΔΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΕΓΕΝΕ ΤΟ ΚΑΧΑΤΙΣ



At the end of chapter 7, we saw that on the 8th day of the Feast of Tabernacles, the incredibly joyous Water Drawing Ceremony. As I said, the Jewish Talmud declares that “one who had never witnessed the Rejoicing at the Place of the Water Drawing had never seen true joy in his life.” It was a jubilant procession, ceremony, and celebration, of God’s provision of water for physical life, but more importantly, God’s provision of eternal life – of His Salvation.

As the roaring and singing and dancing concluded, Jesus stood in their midst and shouted out in the tradition of the Prophets of Old. “If anyone is thirsty, let

him come to Me and drink.” And if you think that His declaration wasn’t about eternal Salvation, His next words made it evident, “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’” In doing this Jesus had made it as clear as possible that He was the Salvation that only Almighty could possibly provide to the people.



We then moved on to the Pericope Adulterae. In that incident, Jesus demonstrated in physical reality that He was indeed the source of Salvation. Ask the woman Who saved her. Within the narrative we discovered that two of the reasons for the controversy about the pericope were misguided misunderstandings.

1) First, the point wasn't that no human can judge another, but that humans charged with the sacred duty of judging must do so humbly, mercifully, in full recognition of their own imperfections and with a heart for true justice to foster good order and discipline within society.

2) Second, we learned that Jesus never condones sin in any way, shape, or form. Grace is only Grace if sin is a powerful evil that must be expunged. Sin is so vile, and so corrosive, and so damning, that the Grace to eradicate it cost God His human life! So yes, accept and embrace your forgiveness in Christ Jesus, and "go and sin no more!"

3) The final piece we saw graphically demonstrated is that Jesus was "left alone" as the sole Judge. The judges of the Jewish people had guiltily, ashamedly, and contritely, walked away. Only Jesus remained as the only righteous Judge. That concept of Judge will now be expanded upon as we move forward.



John 8:12&13, 12Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life." 13So the Pharisees said to Him, "You are testifying about Yourself; Your testimony is not true."

Jesus dramatically proclaims that He is Light of the world, and His opponents seemingly ignore that and start talking about the validity of His testimony concerning Himself. It can be confusing if you don't understand what the Pharisees understood.

Let's start with the pronouncement, "I am the Light of the world." This is the 2nd of 7 formal "I AM" statements in John's Gospel. In addition to these we have several informal "I AM" statements as well.

You've no doubt heard me talk about it before because it really is a big deal. In Greek it is ἐγώ εἰμι (ě-gō) (ā-mē), basically as translated, "I" plus "am," so, "I AM." ἐγώ gives us our word ego (ā-mē), and it is the first-person singular pronoun, "I". So far, so good. εἰμι (ā-mē), is the verb to be – the verb of existence. "Am," is a reasonable translation. In Greek there are times when you would put the two words together in this way where it would simply mean the same thing that it does in English. "I am... going to the store." That type of use is plain and obvious.

Both the 7 formal and multiple informal "I AM" statements are completely unlike that normal usage. In those cases, there are grammatical, syntactical, and contextual, issues that make them extremely unusual and therefore noteworthy. When taken in light of the very name of Almighty God in the Old Testament, it is without question a definite claim of divinity equal with Almighty God.



God was speaking to Moses from the Burning Bush in Exodus 3:13–15, where we read, 13Then Moses said to God, “Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you.’ Now they may say to me, ‘What is His name?’ What shall I say to them?” 14God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM”; and He said, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ ” 15God, furthermore, said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is My name forever, and this is My memorial-name to all generations.

The “I AM” in Hebrew is what is called the tetragrammaton because it consists of 4 letters – 4 consonants, yod, he, waw, and he, again. When we add the wrong vowels and the wrong pronunciation of the consonants, we get Jehovah. When we use the correct vowels and pronounce things the right way, we get Yahweh. Yahweh in Hebrew means exactly the same thing as ἐγώ εἰμι in Greek, and “I AM WHO I AM,” in English.

I mentioned that there are several informal “I AM” statements to go with the 7 formal ones. What’s the difference, you might ask? The formal statements all have a predicate. What?!?! A predicate simply means something to which the statement directly relates. In John 6:35 we saw the first formal “I AM” statement when the people whom Jesus had miraculously fed, were wanting more chow, Jesus declared to them, “I AM the Bread of Life.” The predicate is, “the Bread of Life.” Here we have, “I am the Light of the world.” The predicate is, “the Light of the world.”

We have five more to go in this Gospel. These formal statements have to do with Who Jesus is, with His

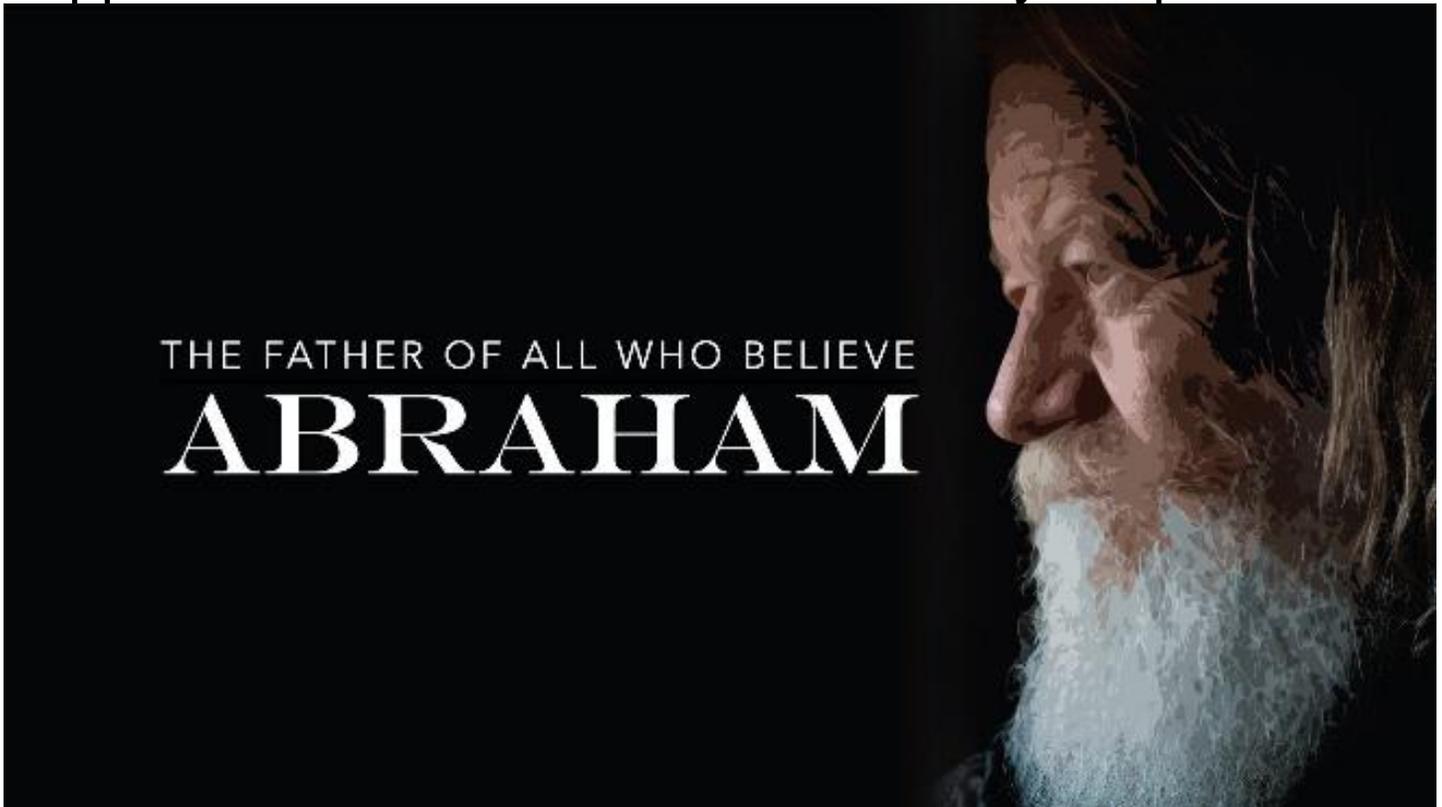
nature and His essence, with His qualities and His attributes. Jesus exists as these things.

The informal “I AM” statements can be every bit as powerful theologically. Informal doesn’t mean lesser; it just means that there is no predicate. We saw one in John 4:26 when the Woman at the Well said to Jesus, “I know Messiah is coming (He Who is called Christ).” And in Greek, He literally said, “I AM, He Who is speaking to you”

We will have another one in just a couple of verses as part of the exchange we’re looking at right now. In verse 18 of this chapter, we’ll see Jesus say, “I AM, He who testifies.” Neither of those say anything about Jesus’ nature; they tell us about His qualifications, or about what He’s doing.

To help even more, we’ll take the most famous and powerful informal “I AM” statement we have, which

happens to be found later on in this very chapter.



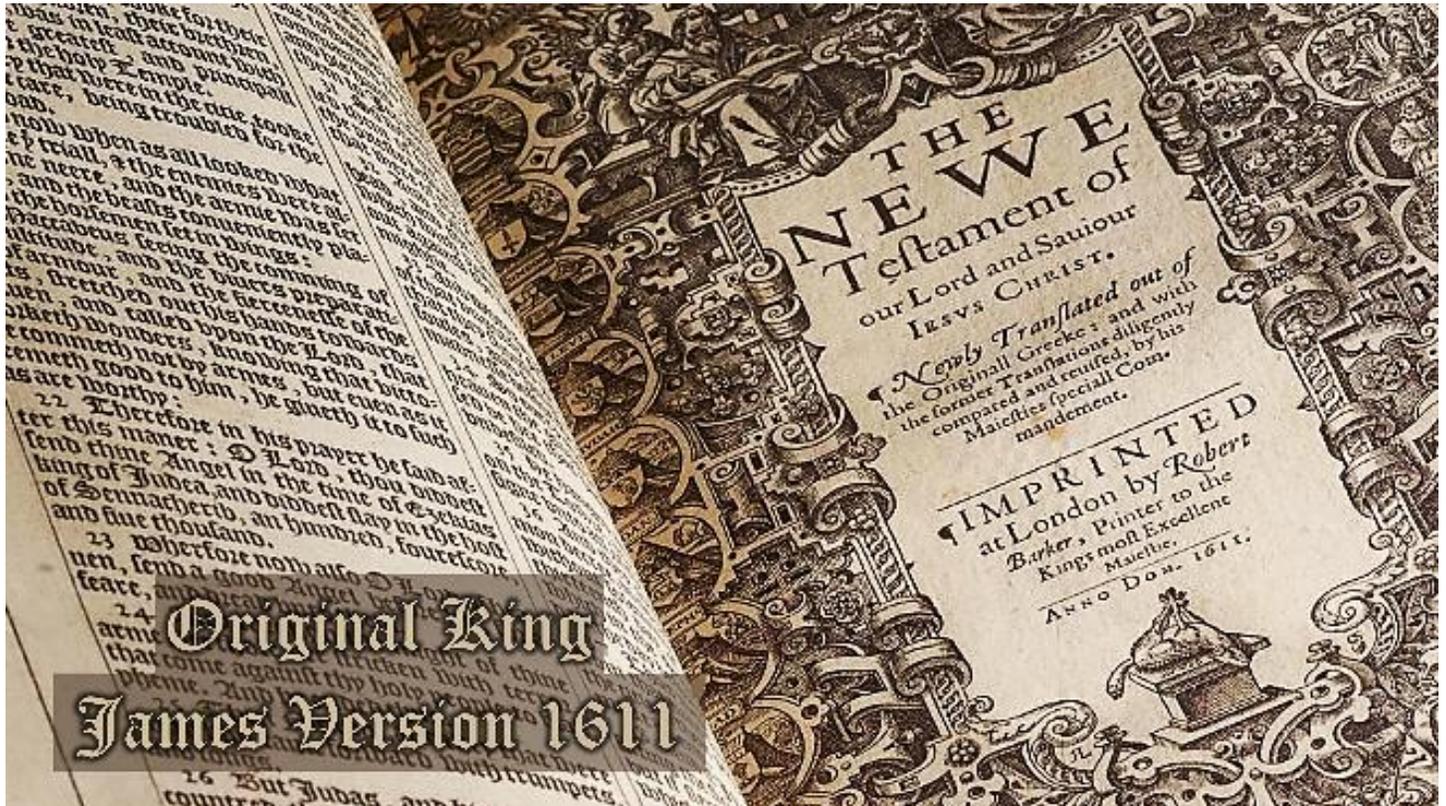
To set the stage, remember that Abraham was the Father of the Jews who lived 4,000 years ago and so 2,000 years before Jesus dwelt on earth. We read John 8:56–58, where Jesus was speaking to His opponents, <sup>56</sup>“Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.” <sup>57</sup>So the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?” (That’s a bit of snotty mocking – they fully understood that Jesus would have to be at least 2,000 years old to have seen Abraham physically) <sup>58</sup>Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I AM.”

It doesn't get more profound than that. There could be no denying what Jesus was claiming at that point and that is reflected by their reaction. The very next verse,



John 8:59, “Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him.” Stoning a person to death, while required by Old Testament Law for such an outrageously blasphemous claim, was illegal under Roman law. The people were so incensed by Jesus’ astonishingly scandalous claim of divinity equal with, and the same as, Yahweh, that they were willing to risk their own brutal crucifixion by the Roman authorities to kill Jesus.

As with C.S. Lewis' trilemma, Jesus was liar, lunatic, or Lord. It is precisely true. The Jesus presented to us clearly and constantly in the New Testament was either a conman, a madman, or He was God made man.



The only resource on the planet with direct information about Jesus can be disparaged and disregarded, but to what point and purpose? The only reason to question the reliability of the Bible is to give one the illusion of a way out of choosing between those three options. It's still a choice to accept or reject Jesus as "I AM."

This formal "I AM" statement concerning the Light is the only one that doesn't attach to what has just taken

place, or what was just being discussed. Jesus' "Light" metaphor seems like it comes out of the blue, unexpectedly.

That's because we miss the link to the Pericope Adulterae. A sure proof that the incident is original and in the correct place even if it was reconstituted by Godly men after it had been removed by fearful men.

As I said the primary message of the Woman Caught in Adultery, is the dramatic Grace of God. It is about Salvation and is the actual demonstration of Jesus' proclamation just prior that if anyone is thirsty – if anyone wants Salvation, they must come to Him for that.



Jesus did not condemn her because He was about to take her guilt and pay the price for her... That is dramatic Grace. The other concept integral to Salvation is the recognition that Salvation is unnecessary if there's nothing to be Saved from.

If I kick down the door to your home and rip you out of your bed and drag you kicking and screaming out of your house and throw you into your yard, you will probably be a little grumpy with me. If you then discover that while you were asleep a major fire had enveloped your home and in moments you would have

been burned alive, you will have a different view of my actions.

Salvation implies Judgment. Jesus was “left alone,” as the one and only Judge. The “Light” metaphor is all about illuminating the Truth – it is to Judge everything with perfect justice. It is far beyond perfectly honest integrity – it is what is True in the highest possible sense. It is. As such Perfect justice is not mercy, or grace, or kindness, or compassion, or gentleness, or empathy. It is the cold, hard, unadulterated Truth without any hint of duplicity. Perfect justice is perfectly blind and only weighs the actual Truth of the matter. James 1:17, tells us that God is “the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.”

Light has to do with what is, period. It is perfect Truth, perfect Judgment, perfect Justice from the Father of lights and that’s exactly why Hebrews 10:31 says that “It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” There is no way out of God’s perfect Judgment and that should absolutely and utterly terrify every person who has ever lived.

There's no amount of sweet talking, there's no taking the fifth or drinking a fifth, there's no Johnny Cochrane defense team, no insanity plea, no bribe, or other kind of payoff or under the table, back door, good ole boy, deal, that can possibly change perfect justice at all. God didn't for a moment relax the justice, or condemnation you earned when He poured out the righteous punishment you deserved, on Jesus.

Justice is what is, period. And as such, every human being will be found guilty and will be condemned. There's no getting around that, as Paul wrote in Romans 3:23, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

That's what we need to be Saved from and quite obviously for anyone with a brain, only God Himself can provide a way to change the guilty verdict. Since perfect justice cannot be corrupted, God chose to pay your debt Himself. He took the condemnation of the Woman Caught in Adultery along with all of the condemnation you deserve for your guilt, along with mine, and everyone else's and He paid at the Cross.

Now, a person can accept that Salvation or not by embracing that Savior or not.

So, Light is the perfect Truth of perfect Judgment, the very thing Jesus had just implied and the very thing that the incident of the Pericope Adulterae demonstrated.

To fully understand we must keep this in context with the opening prologue, where it was said concerning the Word of God, Jesus, “In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it” (John 1:4&5). Now since we covered that in-depth a few months ago, I won’t say much about it here, other than to remind you that the very fact that Life exists at all is a testament to the One Who bestows and sustains Life. That fundamental, foundational, Truth is the Light. that can illumine man’s thinking.

I love nature shows – the scenery and the animals – very fun stuff. It is annoying that every episode insists on ramming the macro-evolution ideology down the audience’s throat.



Last week I watched a show about volcanoes. In it they said scientists have discovered the mechanism to how life began and has now reached this point. It was fraught with half-truths, inuendo, and ignoring contradictory data. They are taking samples of fresh lava every week to see how long it takes for the rock to produce microbes. Their belief is that once the microbes appear it is merely a matter of a few billion years, and you have people. My question is when the microbes do appear, and, of course, they will... Where will they have come from? Spontaneously from rock and water, or from the countless trillions of microbes floating on every breeze? If it is the later, and it is, then

doesn't that life illumine your thinking? For some, I guess not.

You could say Truth is Light and Jesus declares in this Gospel that He exists as both. "I AM the Light," and later "I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life." The Light of that Truth shines into the darkness of self-focus, self-aggrandizement, self-serving self-love, but because it is what it is we humans reject it in favor of the shadows. That's what John 3:19 means, "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil."

Again, the theme is Judgment – it is the arrival of the Light that proves men are evil. It is coming to the Light that enables Salvation from perfect justice from the perfect Judge – Jesus the very Word of God. Just as Jesus claims in the second part of verse 12, "he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."



As the “Light of the world” Jesus is the one and only possible Light, the one and only possible Truth, the one and only possible Judge and therefore, the one and only possible Savior for all of mankind throughout time – for the entire world!

The Pharisees understood that He was, as the Light of the world and as the one who leads people out of the darkness into Life, claiming a Savior role, but more, they were struck by the Judging of them and all others who did not “Follow Jesus” as walking around stumbling in the dark.

See how to us, Jesus' Words seem wonderful and hopeful and salvific, but to someone rejecting Jesus they sound like an indictment against them – a judgment of them and condemnation for them... That's why your non-Christian family, friends and associates feel judged by you when to you it's all Good News. "Who is Jesus to judge me?" That's their cry today and it was their cry then.

So, in verse 13, they took a legal tack, "You say that You are the Light, but where's your corroborating witness? Anyone can make such a claim, where's the proof."



John 8:14–20, 14 Jesus answered and said to them, “Even if I testify about Myself, My testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. 15 “You judge according to the flesh; I am not judging anyone. 16 “But even if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone in it, but I and the Father who sent Me. 17 “Even in your law it has been written that the testimony of two men is true. 18 “I am He who testifies about Myself, and the Father who sent Me testifies about Me.” 19 So they were saying to Him, “Where is Your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know neither Me nor My Father; if you knew Me, you would know My Father also.” 20 These words He spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one seized Him, because His hour had not yet come.

Jesus’ response in verse 14 seems odd. He said, “Even if I alone testify to Who I am, My testimony is still true.” A Christian would say, well, obviously because He IS the Truth. A Jew would say, we just said that was invalid. Jesus’ point was that they said a single witness makes the testimony “not true.” Jesus was straightening them out on that. A lone person’s

testimony may not be acceptable in court, but it doesn't necessarily make their testimony false.

He went on to add that He was fully aware of Who He was and where He came from, two things that the Pharisees did not have a clue about and so they were the ones operating from a false basis.

Jesus elaborated in verse 15 finally making what I've been saying about Judgment clear. They had been disqualified from judging because they had already proven with the Woman Caught in Adultery, and their continued misunderstanding of Jesus, that they were only judging as the fleshly self-absorbed humans they were.

Instead of desiring true justice in accordance with God's perfect judgment, tinged with the caution and mercy of a humble person well-aware of their own shortcomings...



they judged with the disdain that comes from arrogance, elitism, and privilege – they judged to further their own agenda and line their own pockets.

Jesus came to Save, not to Judge. As I said you cannot have one without the other, but the official condemnatory Judgment comes later... For now, the focus is still on Salvation. But IF Jesus were to have Judged back then, His Judgment would have been perfect justice.



Specifically, why is that true? We have seen this before. What makes Jesus' testimony about Himself and the Father and the Spirit entirely true and valid, and what makes His judgment perfect, is He is never alone.

Jesus was, is, and always shall be, inextricably linked as an integral member of the Trinity. What that means is that He, all by Himself, could reveal the totality of God, could judge all things for God, but the very reason that that is true is because Jesus is never all by Himself. Put another way, only the totality of God could ever testify and judge as the totality of God, but

because each member, the Father, the Son, the Spirit, are in perfect unity any one of them alone can act as any other and yet they never do act alone because they are always in perfect unity.



Maybe an example... I could reveal to you my brother and judge like him with great accuracy because we have been together for almost 60 years. While my representation of Rob will be quite good, it will be imperfect because our unity – my understanding of him, while good, is imperfect. Imagine how my accuracy would be if we were in perfect harmonious accord from all eternity.

Jesus can both testify and judge all by Himself with perfect accuracy as to how the Father, or the Spirit would, and as all three of them together would, but He never does.



In bringing up the Father Who sent Him again, Jesus continued in that vein. Verse 17, Jesus went back to what is valid in court technically. "You said that I need another witness to corroborate my testimony about Myself, well I call My Own Father to the stand!"

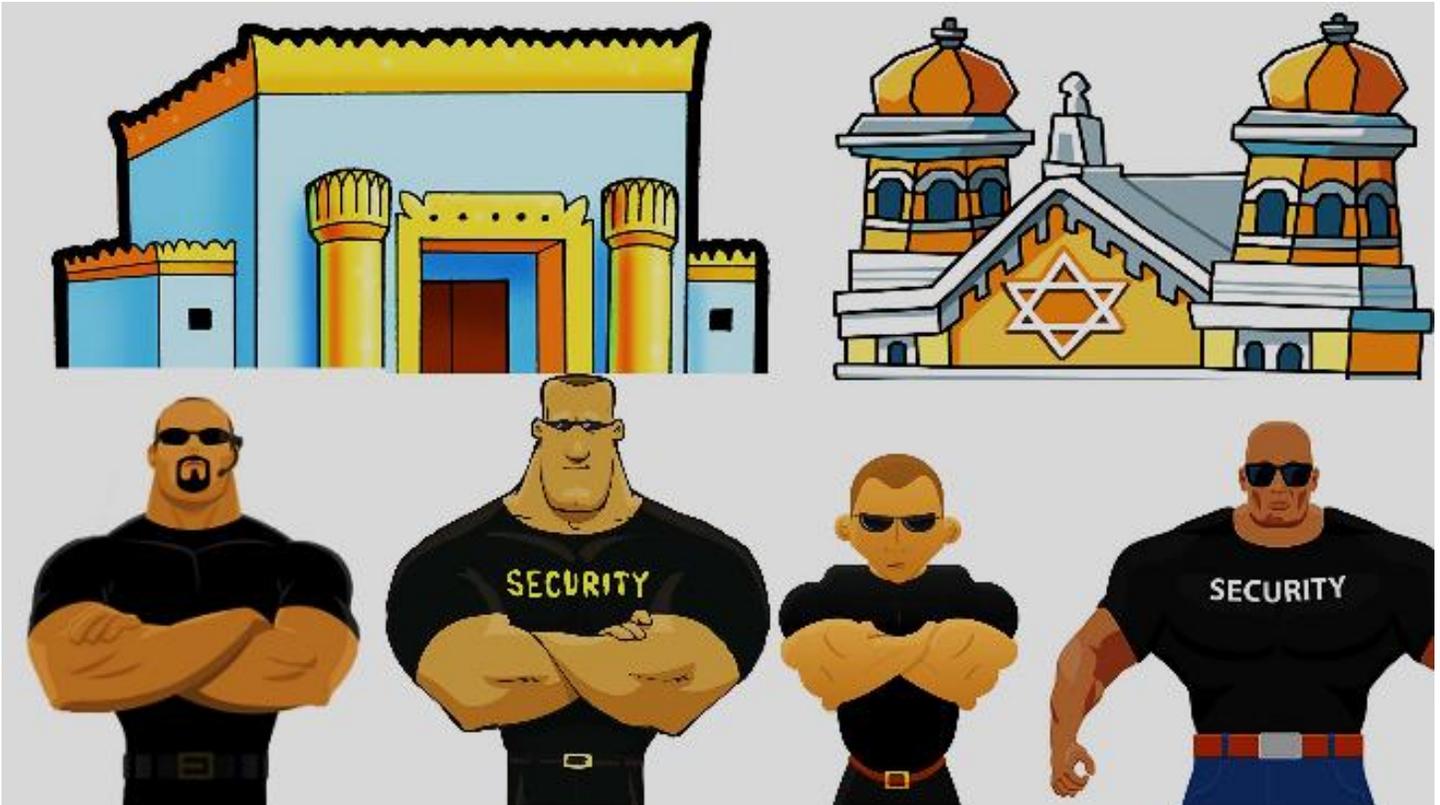
They already knew that Jesus had repeatedly claimed a unique relationship with Yahweh by calling Him His Father, so it's odd that they didn't get the Father that

He was talking about. It may have been intentional, even if subconsciously so.

Had they understood which Father and more importantly known that Father through learning about Him through His Word, both written and before them in the flesh, they would have also known Jesus and accepted Him as Emmanuel.

In verse 20 we get a specific location – the Treasury, and another mention of how the Jews desperately wanted to seize Jesus and murder Him but were supernaturally thwarted by Almighty God. It simply wasn't yet time for that according to God's plan.

The two things, the location, and the Jews inability to grab Jesus, seem unrelated.



They are not. There was no place on earth that was more under the direct control of the Jewish leadership than the Treasury. Even there, in that Fort Knox of a place, the people in charge couldn't seem to arrest Jesus. If that's not a supernatural intervention into our physical world, I don't know what is...

I know of another supernatural intervention into the affairs of mankind. Jesus, the very Word of God made flesh. Here's another, the Holy Spirit, the very Breath of God sent from the Father to indwell those who through faith in Jesus have become His children.

The Holy Spirit was sent by God to illuminate His Holy Word. Yield to the Spirit of Truth and know the one and only Savior Jesus Christ. In so doing you will know the Father and you will dwell in the Light forever.