



Jesus Predicts His Departure

Lesson Overview

1. Watch a Video

Watch John 8:12-59 at bit.ly/GCEDGospelOfJohn from 1hr 8min 30sec to 1hr 16min 5sec (7min 40sec).

2. Discuss

Choose questions for discussion.

New Church Concept Abraham's Seed

By the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is not meant their posterity, but rather everyone in whom the good and the truth of faith is present.... All those are the Lord's 'seed' who are in the good and truth of faith in Him. From the Lord alone comes heavenly seed, that is, all good and truth.
Arcana Coelestia 3773

The Unregenerate

The nature of the human internal, if not reformed by the Lord, has been made plain to me by seeing the devils and Satans in hell. For these are constantly minded to kill the Lord.
True Christian Religion 312

FaithBuilder 3 | Lesson 19 | Gospel of John

Watch a Video

Watch John 8:12-59, the story of Jesus predicting His departure and following stories, from *The Life of Jesus . English . Official Full HD Movie*, at bit.ly/GCEDGospelOfJohn. (Enter link in the web browser bar at the top of your screen.) *Start video at 1hr 8min 26sec. Watch until 1hr 16min 6sec; 7min*

Note: The video segment includes several incidents: Jesus defends His self-witness and predicts His departure (1hr 8min 26sec-1hr 11min 25sec); the truth shall make you free (1hr 11min 25sec-1hr 11min 53sec); Abraham's seed and Satan's (1hr 11min 53sec-1hr 13min 36sec); Before Abraham was, I Am (1hr 13min 36sec-1hr 16min 6sec). Discussion questions follow the order of the story. Choose whether to show the entire video and discuss, or whether to discuss each segment after watching it.

40sec.

Discuss

Choose questions for discussion.

1. Just as the light of the sun exposes dirt so it can be cleaned, spiritual light from the Lord reveals true motives so we can clean up our act. Why is leading a good life impossible without the light of truth?
2. Jesus' words, "I AM the light of the world," is the second of seven "I AM" statements in the Gospel of John. What did Jesus mean? When is He the light of *our* world—when He teaches true ideas, or when we act on them?
3. What was Jesus' life-work as the "light of truth" in the world?
4. The religious leaders didn't want to listen to Jesus and accused him of speaking on his own authority. Jesus responded that He had two witnesses—Himself (Jesus) and the Father. Jesus (Divine truth) and the Father (Divine love) are "two witnesses" that matter in our own lives. Jesus (Divine truth) never judges without Divine love. How should we hold this idea when we are making judgments about ourselves, or about others?
5. We need "two witnesses" (true ideas) to understand what is genuinely true. If we live by a single truth it's easy for us to take it out of context—to bend it so that it means what we want it to. Being aware of more than one true idea provides checks and balances in our thinking. Why are checks and balances



New Church Concept Freedom and Slavery

When a person has been regenerated he enters for the first time into a state of freedom. Previously he has been in slavery. It is slavery when evil desires and falsities predominate, freedom when affections for good and truth do so. As long as a person is in a state of slavery, a person never perceives what his situation is. Only when he enters a state of freedom does he start to do so. When he is in a state of slavery, that is, when evil desires and falsities predominate, the person who is subject to them imagines he is in a state of freedom. That is false for he is being carried away by the delight accompanying the loves that are his own. And because he is being carried away by such delight it seems to him as though he were free. While anyone is being led on by any kind of love, and following wherever it leads, he imagines he is free. It is however the devilish spirits, in whose company he is caught, who carry him away. This person imagines that this is absolute freedom, indeed he goes so far as to believe that if he were robbed of this state he would be entering upon a very miserable existence, in fact into no existence at all. This he believes not only because he is unaware of the existence of any other kind of life... See *Arcana Coelestia* 892

Free will is doing what is good because one freely chooses or it is in one's will to do it. People who are led by the Lord enjoy that freedom. See *Arcana Coelestia* 892

6. Jesus said, "I am going away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin. Where I go you cannot come." What did He mean?
7. How do we "lift up the Son of Man" in our own lives?
8. Compare being a slave with being a member of a family.
9. How might a slave become a member of a family?
10. Which is more attractive—being bad or being good?
11. What consequences follow from doing something good?
12. In what ways does evil make us slaves? (See John 8:34)
13. Which is true freedom—the ability to choose between good and evil, or the ability to choose what is good? (See *Arcana Coelestia* 9591, on right.)
14. What is the relationship between Abraham and the Jewish nation?
15. Abraham and his descendants, the Jewish nation, knew and worshiped the Lord. Yet Jesus accused them of seeking to kill Him because His Word had no place in them. Like the Jewish nation we know something of the Lord, but when act selfishly we turn away from being "children of God." How can selfish attitudes and behaviors "kill Jesus" in a person?
16. From a New Church perspective, who or what is "the devil"?
17. When do we make "the devil" our "father"?
18. Jesus said, "If anyone keeps My word he shall never see death." What death was Jesus referring to?
19. What attitude fueled the words, "Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. Who do You make Yourself out to be?" What might prompt a person to say something like this today?
20. If you were a member of the crowd, how do you think you would you have received Jesus? Is it easy or hard to accept new ideas?
21. If the Jews were waiting for a Messiah, why was it so hard for them to recognize Him when He came?

Seven I AM Statements in the Gospel of John

- I am the Bread of Life (John 6:35)
- I am the Light of the World (John 8:12)
- I am the Door (John 10:9)
- I am the Good Shepherd (John 10:11,14)
- I am the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)
- I am the Way and the Truth and the Life (John 14:6)
- I am the Vine (John 15:1,5)

Choose one of the I AM statements. What does this mean on a natural level? What might the image mean on a spiritual level? Why do you think the Lord chose that as an image for Himself? How does this image help you see the Lord in a new way?