

The Light of the World

John 8:12-59

by Don Falkos

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Jesus was teaching in the Temple and said, "**I AM** the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will experience the light of life. You are from below; I am from above. You are part of this world; I am not. When you have lifted me up on the cross, you will understand that **I AM** the one I have always claimed to be. Listen to my teachings, teachings I heard from my Father. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

The people retorted, "We don't need to be set free. We're not slaves."

Jesus continued, "You are slaves to your own sin. But if the Son sets you free, you are free."

"We are children of God."

"No. If God were your Father, you would know me and love me, because I have come to you from God, sent by God. Your real father is Satan. He is a murderer and a liar and the father of lies. He has always hated the truth. So when I tell you the truth, you don't believe me; you want to kill me. Well I tell you, anyone who obeys my teaching will never die."

"You must be possessed by an evil spirit to say such a thing. Even Abraham and the prophets died. Who do you think you are?"

"Abraham saw my coming and was overjoyed."

"You aren't even fifty years old. How can you claim to have seen Abraham?"

"I tell you the truth, before Abraham was even born, **I AM!**"

By saying this, Jesus was claiming to be God. The mob prepared to stone him. But Jesus was hidden from them and left the Temple.