

John 8:12 (NIV)

12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

John 8:31-32 (NIV)

31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.

32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

John 8:51 (NIV)

51 “I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.”

John 8:58 (NIV)

58 “I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!”

43-08-02-Precious Pearls from Jesus

value, light, truth, death, life, eternity, I AM

John 8:12, 31-32, 51, 58

Jesus is the treasure worth the surrender of all we are and have.

INTRODUCTION: (John 8:52-59 as the Scripture Reading)

–*Society’s changing values can distract us from eternal values.* Current fads in *thought, word* and *deed* are soon replaced by new ones. But that *repeating cycle* can keep our focus off of what’s important for eternity.

John the Baptist & Jesus confronted that cycle: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” [*i.e.: Focus your mind on God’s Kingdom and its eternal values!*]

–Jesus turned this message into a divine form of values clarification–

Mat 13:45-46, “the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls.

When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.”

The King of “the kingdom” is that *pearl*. **HOM.idea.** His words about Himself are eternally valuable.

As we *treasure-hunt* in John 8, we’ll look at 4 **precious pearls from Jesus (title)**. Here’s the first...

I. The Pearl of Divine Light– v.12, Jesus... said, “I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

A. Because people trip and fall in “darkness,” it can be *frightening*.

(But *spiritual darkness* is even more *fearful*, because it *threatens not only our earthly journey but also our eternal happiness*.)

B. The *pearl of divine light* is **personal**– Psa 27:1, The LORD is **my** light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? (*He is the “light” that dispels fear*.)

1. The “*light of life*” is *Jesus*– John 1:4, In him was life, and that life was the light of men. (Turning to Him turns His divine light on inside us.)

2. Scripture is called “a lamp,” but for us to “*never walk in darkness*” we have *Jesus*, “*the light of the world*,” living within our hearts.

TRANS: [In Poems Between Darkness and Light: “In His love and kindness, God bestows little glimpses of truth here and there during the course of our lives in order to turn us away from the darkness of selfishness toward the light of holiness and love. But often this slow process is only to prepare us for an essential “crisis” experience where a sudden pouring in of His light catches us off guard, exposing our true situation and our danger. At such moments, the choice is clear. We either turn back willfully toward the deceptive comfort of our darkness or enter a new, bright journey on the highway of God’s will.] *Jesus is this pearl of divine light, worth the surrender of all we are and have, so that we can walk in His light!*

II. The Pearl of True Freedom— v.31-32, *To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*

A. The *freedom* He spoke of was from *slavery to sin*.

1. *Lies lead to sin’s bondage*, so He said, “*the truth will set you free.*”
2. But an *intellectual grasp of “truth” isn’t enough*: real “disciples” have to “*hold to [His] teaching” in a personally committed way.*)

B. **[MCAG]** uses this promise that “*the truth will set you free*” from pornography. We confront the *social lie* of a *sexually objectified view of the body* with the *truth* that the body is the sacred image of God meant to be a *holy temple*. But learning this truth can’t be just *head knowledge*; it *must produce heart change.*]

TRANS: Jesus *frees us from sin by heart change*. *Lies* are destroyed by “*truth,*” but He says in v.36. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. Jesus is “*Truth*” the Person, behind all *bondage-breaking “truth.”* He’s the pearl of true freedom Who is worth surrendering all we are or have.

III. The Pearl of Deathless Life— v.51, “*I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.*”

A. Keeps His “word” where? In the brain’s memory banks? NO! In the heart... a heart committed to Him Who said in John 11:25–26, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

B. If we do believe it, then we’ve learned the true meaning of *eternal life*. (It’s not *immortality—everlasting existence*, which souls in hell also have. It’s a vital, faith relationship with the One Who prayed in John 17:3, “Now this is **eternal life**: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”)

TRANS: Those rejecting Christ might see a *Grim Reaper* when passing from this life. But we who know Jesus as Savior and Lord have already “*passed from death into life.*” We’ve found the *pearl of deathless life*, and He’s **the treasure worth the surrender of all we are and have.**

IV. The Pearl of Eternity— v.58, “*I tell you the truth,*” *Jesus answered,* “*before Abraham was born, I am!*”

A. In human language, that’s *grammatically incorrect*: it should have been, “*before Abraham was, I was.*”

1. But that would mean that Jesus could have been a *created being*,

and He didn’t intend to leave that open as a possibility.

2. As the eternal Son of the Trinity, Jesus didn’t fit in creation’s *finite* terminology. (By saying “*before Abraham was born, I am!*”, He revealed His true identity as the Great I AM— Exod 3:14, God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”)

B. What He said about Himself here is the most precious pearl of all.

1. In this life, fads and philosophies come and go, standards keep changing, ‘ups’ in politics & economy eventually become ‘downs.’ (Any *security is temporary* in a fallen world plagued by *darkness, deception and death.*)

2. Into our world of instability, “from the Father of the heavenly lights,” came the gift of His only Son, Who, like His Father, has “no variation or shadow of turning.”

3. To us, “weary and burdened” by life in this unstable world, Jesus—the incarnate *I AM*, Who can say, “I the LORD do not change”—has graciously called, “Come to me... and I will give you rest.”

CONCLUSION:

—These *precious pearls from Jesus* were *worthless* to the unbelieving *religious leaders*. They heard but rejected what He said about Himself. I’ve skipped over their arguments in John 8 to focus on our Savior, Who brought us the eternal guidance of divine light, the *true freedom from sin’s bondage*, and the gracious gift of deathless life.

—Jesus not only embodied *these* treasures, but He **is the pearl of eternity!** He came seeking lost sheep, but once found, we find in Him our eternal treasure, forever and ever....