

John 8

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Date: 28 May 2017

Preacher: Reverend David MacLeod

[0 : 00] Good morning everyone. And a warm welcome to the service this morning. If you're visiting, it's good to see a number of visitors with us today.

You're especially welcome and tea and coffee will be served at the end of the service. If you're able to stay behind before that, it would be good to get a chance to meet with you and enjoy fellowship together.

The Gallic service this evening will be at 6 and that will be conducted by Donald John Morrison and Dan Marig. The Faith Mission will be holding their first 10th meeting at Willow Park tonight, Uruguay, half past 7.

And meetings will be taking place at this time each night apart from Saturdays until the 11th of June. I won't say any more about that just now because Gordon's going to come up and speak to us in just a few minutes.

Gordon's part of the team as is Willie who's sitting beside him. And so they're going to come up in a few minutes time and tell us a bit more about their 10th mission. And Gordon will be speaking to the children as well.

[1 : 03] The Ladies Bible Study meets on Monday at 8. I think there may be changes to that in light of the mission. But I haven't heard if there is. So you can consult with each other. Tuesday at half past 7.

The First Truth Fellowship meets in the Church of Scotland Hall as usual. And Road to Recovery at 8. The First Truth Fellowship meets in the Church of Scotland Hall. The First Truth Fellowship meets in the Church of Scotland Hall. There will be no prayer meeting for the next two Wednesdays.

Although the prayer meeting people, I would strongly encourage you all to go to the Faith Mission meetings and to be praying throughout these two weeks.

And in particular on these Wednesdays as we come together as we always do. Let's be prayerful all the way through these meetings. The services next Sunday will be at 11.

And the morning service will be taken by myself, God willing. The evening service actually will be taken by one of the Faith Mission team. Andrew. Andrew.

[2 : 02] Andrew. Andrew. If they can't remember his name. Andrew Woolsey is the name that's in my mind. But I'm not. Quinn. Quinn. Andrew Quinn. Andrew's not here this morning.

He's in the Church of Scotland this morning. But he'll be taking the service next Sunday evening at 6. And he'll be preaching at the mission tonight. A couple of dates for your diary.

The 17th of June, Congregational Barbecue. And the 7th of August, or the 11th of August, is the Children's Holiday Club. So please take a note of these dates and keep them free if you're able to. There'll be a cafe and a bric-a-brac stall in the Community Centre on Saturday, 3rd June, from 10 to 3, as we do, as has been done over the last few years.

And that's to raise funds for the Free Church Youth Camps. I know some of our young folks are going there this year. So donations of sandwich fillings, vaping, bric-a-brac will be appreciated.

[3 : 02] If you can provide any food or help, even for an hour, please sign the sheep on the table. And please come along for a cup of tea or lunch next Saturday to support this work.

But a few other intimations that have been given to me just before the service. First, one is to remind the elders that the session will meet on the 1st of June, Thursday the 1st of June.

That's this coming Thursday, at the Mansa at 7pm. This is for a very short meeting before the 10th meeting. And that will be to count the votes for deacons.

And Duncan spoke to you about deacons last Sunday. For those who haven't yet put their sheep back, please do so before next Thursday, if you're able to just indicate your support or otherwise.

Next Saturday, there will be a garden party at the Mansa. When I say a garden party, I don't mean a garden party with cups of tea and fancy cakes and doilies.

[4 : 04] There's a number of jobs that would be good to get done. And if you are able to help at the Mansa next Saturday, please come with a shovel and a fork or a rake or whatever.

And many hands will make light work. This afternoon, there will be a meeting at half past three at the Mansa. Initially, it was for the Youth Fellowship, really.

Ailey, Calamian-McLeod's daughter from VAC, she's going off to South Africa this year with Operation Mobilisation.

And she's going to speak to the Youth Fellowship this afternoon at the Mansa at half past three, along with a rep from Operation Mobilisation. But it would be good to open up.

So if you'd like a cup of coffee and a cake and to listen to the talk, and so we can prayerfully support Ailey as she goes off, please come along.

[5 : 01] Half past three, probably for about an hour at the Mansa this afternoon. And these, I think, are all the intimations. Our Heavenly Father, we thank you that on this day, yet again, we are found in this place.

We thank you that we gather this morning as the Church of Jesus Christ, one small part. We gather in the name of Jesus.

We gather under the authority, the headship of Jesus. We gather to remember the life and the death and the resurrection of Jesus.

This is the Lord's Day. The day where we are called to reflect upon the fact that the Saviour not only died, but he rose again, triumphant over the grave.

And we thank you that as we think upon that, we are given such compelling encouragement to remember that although the darkness is deep, the darkness did not overcome the light, but the light overcame the darkness.

[6 : 16] And we thank you that as we look to Calvary, that's what we see. We see the darkness of our sin. We see the darkness of Satan.

We see the darkness of death. And we see our Saviour stand in that place where we deserve to stand. And hung in that place that we deserve to hang.

But we thank you that having taken our sin upon himself, having taken the enemy on and overcome him, we have the wonder and the encouragement of the resurrection.

Darkness came over the world for these three hours as Jesus drank the cup of wrath that our sin filled.

But we thank you that the light shone back. And we remember this morning the wonder of that light. We thank you for Jesus. He is the one who calls us to come and worship.

[7 : 31] He is the one whom we look to. He is the one alone in whom our hope is found. We thank you that he is the one that we are sung of. He is the one who gives us rest for our souls in time and for eternity.

He is the one who gives us refreshment when we approach with hearts sometimes that are weary and worn and sad. We thank you that he is the one who gives satisfaction for souls that thirst and hunger until they find all that they need in Christ.

And Lord, we thank you that he is the one who calls us to look in faith to him and follow him every day that we are given in time.

And then we thank you that we have the assurance that those who follow him and trust him in time will be with them eternally in heaven.

Thank you, Lord, for the wonder of the gospel. Thank you for the good news about Jesus. Thank you that we serve a risen Savior and one who is worthy of all our praise and all our worship.

[8 : 47] And we pray that you would touch our hearts and open our hearts so that we would truly be in worship in the spirit on the Lord's day. We pray for all who are gathered here at this time, those in the congregation that we see week by week, every family represented, Lord.

You know our different needs. We pray that you would meet us at the point of our need. We pray for those who are absent from us today, some on a break, some who are ill, some who are in hospital, some who are housebound.

And we ask, Lord, that you would reach out to each one of them. We thank you that as we pray for them, you hear. And we thank you that as they seek to draw near to you, whatever they may be, they do so with the promise that you will draw near to them as they come in faith.

We pray for those who are holidaying with us today and we thank you for them. And we ask, Lord, that you would bless them and that you would bless the fellowships that they may be part of, that you would move in all these places across our land and across the nations that the light of Christ would be seen.

We pray, Lord, for those who are struggling and who are broken and who are grieving today. Yet again, we are conscious of the horror of what sin does in this world.

[10 : 15] As man determines to go against his maker, as we determine at times to reject the way that you have called us to go and we see sin and we see casualties, sometimes in the most horrendous circumstances.

And Lord, as we think of Manchester and the streets, we pray for all who continue to suffer and all who are trying to make sense of everything.

We pray that in the depth of that darkness, the light of Christ would shine and would be seen. We pray for Barra this morning and in a small community that will feel such shock and such loss.

We pray for your comfort. We pray for your presence. We pray, Lord, that you would be active and, Lord, that you would be working even in this situation.

We pray for the families who are grieving, the McLeod and the McIntyre family, that you would go especially near to them and that they would know that you are God and that you are with them.

[11 : 32] We pray that you would continue with us now and thank you, Lord, for the prospect of over two weeks of gospel mission in this place.

We thank you that the light of the gospel will be heard week after week and we pray for Gordon and for Andrew, pray for Donnie and for Willie here with us and we ask that you would bless them and all who will be involved in that mission.

Pray that you would open hearts, that you would draw people who may not ever come to church and, Lord, that you would seek and save the lost and sanctify those of your people who are found.

So we commit that mission to you also as we thank you for answered prayer. We thank you for an assembly pass and we pray that all the decisions taken would be glorified to you in their effect in the church.

And, Lord, for all denominations, we commit each denomination to you and we ask, Lord, that as a nation, as a church in this land, we would be those who are daily repenting and looking in faith to Christ.

[12 : 52] Hear our prayers. Take away our sin. We confess our sin freely and pray that you would cleanse us in the blood of Christ and that you would lead us in worship this morning.

And we pray this in Jesus' name. Amen. Boys and girls, would you like to come forward, please? Well, this morning, you've got a special, you've got a special treat.

And that treat is, I'm not speaking to you. But Gordon over there is going to speak to you. So I'm going to ask Gordon to come and introduce himself and share a wee word with yourselves and maybe tell us a bit more.

Has anybody seen the tent, the big tent? That's gone up over at Udaga. Did you see it? It's huge, isn't it? Well, Gordon's going to be one of the men speaking at that tent and telling everybody about Jesus over these next two weeks.

So you'll see a bit of Gordon around the place but he's going to come and he's going to introduce himself and he'll probably point at Willie over there. Willie's the man that's got his head down and doesn't want anyone to point at him.

[14 : 02] But if you want to hear what a Black Isle accent truly sounds like in its purest form, go and say hello to Willie. So Gordon, I'll pass over to you just now. It's great to have you here and Willie and the team.

So we have been praying and we continue to pray over these two weeks and beyond. So over to you. Well, you can take it with you if you like.

You don't say that to Fulton Glasgow, just take it with you. Well, good morning, boys and girls. You all right?

I'm just watching the people that are going to be with it and then we'll have a charity. I used to say it's a privilege to be with you. You live in a beautiful place. It's absolutely stunning.

And I know sometimes you can take it for granted. When I was brought up, when I looked out my kitchen window I saw a big blocky flat 17 storeys high. I looked out the back and saw three blocky flats 17 storeys high.

[15:02] And you live in a beautiful place. Absolutely stunning. And it's a privilege to come and share the best message in the world, buddy. Please come along to the tent mission.

It's your mission as well as our mission. The tent's here and we're going to be sharing Jesus over the full fortnight. And it'd be lovely if you come along with the people you're praying for. Bring them along. Phone them, text them, email them. Just invite people along because that's what will make it. If you come along that's what makes it. If you don't come along nothing will happen. We need you to come. We need you to pray. And I hope you don't mind the ladies that are having their study on Monday night. It'd be lovely to see you at the meeting rather than the Bible study. We'll throw that in.

We'll come all the way from the classroom so you can pop around the corner to us. Thank you with a few nods. So it'd be great to see you. Please come along because we're here to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ and to lift him up.

[16:02] And we're praying that souls will be saved. We're praying that people really need them Lord. So thank you very much boys and girls. It's lovely to be with you this morning. Is there anybody here who likes sweeties?

Whoa, that's nice. If there are any adults here and your kids have not liked sweeties please come and pick them up now. Let's see. I'm a bit of a chocolate.

Anyway what, sweetie? Come on up this way. And you're allowed to I'm a visitor so you're allowed to eat it just now if you want. Okay? Up you come. In fact, what I'm going to do is do you think a favour?

Up you come. There you go. Take yourself. Take one each. Take one each. And then. There you go. Take yourself.

Take one. Take a wee seat. There you go. Up you changed your mind. There you go.

[17:02] Open them up. Do you some of it? Hey, hey, eat them. Here I'm just down. Do you get a wee seat? Do you get one? Alright. Okay. Who likes chocolate? I love chocolate.

Chocolate is nice when you're using it. Excuse me. Leave it alone. Yeah. I can see the term you're using it. That's shocking.

That's a wee sweat as well as you're being a big brother. Anyway, isn't it great to eat chocolate? I love chocolate. I'm a bit of a chocoholic. But chocolate is lovely and it's nice to eat it and to enjoy it. I could actually avoid saying no bother with a drink of tea and I'm not joking. Now, is there anything you don't like? What can a subject you don't like? Okay.

Please help me. Is there anything you don't like? What do you don't like? What? Tomatoes. Okay. Anything else?

[18:05] Tomatoes as well? You're my sister. No? Salad. You don't like salad? Oh, alright. Carrots. What? Carrots.

Carrots. Carrots. Carrots. Tomato sauce. Tomato sauce. Anything else? Tomatoes. Tomatoes. Alright. Is there something with tomatoes here? Okay.

Anybody else? Tomatoes. Tomatoes. Alright, okay. Someone up here. Tomatoes here. Right. What kind of food do you like?

Carrots. Carrots. Carrots. Good. Chocolate. Chocolate. Good. Good. Good. Good. Good. Good. Good. Good. Good. Good. Good. Good. Good. Good.

Carrots. You like carrots? You like healthy bunch. What? Chocolate. Do you like menses and potatoes? No. No. Do you like steak pie?

[19:04] Yeah. Yeah. Do you like salmon? No. Do you like your dogs? Yeah. Right, okay. Isn't that amazing all the different foods? And some people like them, some people don't.

But when you hear this, listen, we've got another smoothie. Okay, I've got another surprise for you. You know what the Bible says? We hear this, taste and see that the Lord is good.

Blessed is the man who's trusting him. Taste and see that the Lord is good. You know, I've given you all that smoothie, right? And did you enjoy your sweet? Did you enjoy it?

Yes, we've got another one there. Okay, we enjoyed it. But you know something boys and girls, you can taste the things of God. Isn't that amazing? I mean, you've only tasted roses, but you can taste the things of God.

See, when you see the beauty all around about you, that was God as his litter, bean or rose. He was all in his eye that it started. But you can taste the things of God. How do you think you can taste the things of God?

[20 : 10] Do you think you've had to take the Bible and start to eat it? Would that be what you tasted the things of God? No. And a rose?

Eh, well, we'll chew that one over, right? We'll chew a good answer, we'll chew a good one. Like, when you hear this, what happened to Jesus? He died on the cross.

And why did he die on the cross? To take away your sins. So, the only way you can get to taste the things of God is when you come to God's way.

And there is only one way to God's way. What way is that? It's through. If you go to heaven, you end up to get to heaven. It's coming and giving your life food.

Jesus. The only way you can taste the things of God is not what you see everybody here, it's foreign, right? But the only way you can become a Christian and taste the things of God is when you give your life over to the Lord Jesus Christ, come to churches from you, come to turn the snow and wonderful.

[21 : 16] But you know, God wants you, God wants you to become a Christian. And it doesn't matter what age you are, you don't need to wait for your bit no hair or grey hair.

You can come to sin. Do you know, what hell do you? Five, how old do you? Seven. Seven. Who's oldest? How old do you? Eleven.

It doesn't mean a five or seven or eleven. You can come to God just now. Isn't that wonderful? And you can taste the things of God. And the way you taste the things of God is when you come and give your life to God through Lord Jesus Christ.

Then as you read the Bible, pray and tell other people of Jesus, that's taste the things of God. You can come and give your life to Him. And you know something, that is the best life.

I was 18 when I became a Christian. I never knew anything about Jesus when I was your age.

Nobody told me. But you are privileged. You're absolutely privileged. You've got ministers who love Jesus.

[22 : 18] You've been friends and family of Jesus. And they're telling you, you can become a Christian. So the great news is, you can become a Christian and you can taste the things of God.

Do you know something? I never bought them. Isn't that amazing? I never bought them. Somebody else paid for them. See that man sitting down the front, Molly?

The wee fin boy sitting down the front. Molly, he paid for them. He bought three boxes. I says, how much do I? He says, a dozen, because he knew it was for the children. He paid the price.

He paid the price so I could give you a gift. Do you know something? God paid the price. He sent his son Jesus into this world for you and for me.

And we can become a friend of God all because of Jesus. Isn't that wonderful? Now, when you give your son to school, you start asking questions. How can you become a Christian?

[23 : 19] Becoming a Christian is good to come to church, but you need to make that decision. You need to make a decision in your life. I want to be a friend of Jesus. I want you to become a child of God and it's coming and giving your life to the Lord Jesus Christ.

And it's so important. And that's how you taste the things of God. So isn't it great? It doesn't matter how old you are, you can become a Christian today. Today, by coming and giving your life to Jesus. Now, I've got another big present here for you. don't say the people in Glasgow are miserable because we're not. Okay? You go and give everybody a CD.

Okay? There you go. And also, who's your traditional teacher? Food? Where is it? Where is it? Are we here? Where are your hands? Oh, yes. Oh, I don't need a job, it's warm. Okay? There's another bottle of chocolate in there.

[24 : 28] And there's some other sweeties for you. Very good. All guys. Okay, boys and girls. So remember, who loves you? Jesus loves you.

How much does he love you? Love you. He died on the cross. And you should become a friend of God by giving your life to Jesus. And you can taste the things of God just now.

You don't need to eat your own. It can happen today by coming and giving your life over to the Lord Jesus Christ. You ask, your son is so teacher about that, okay? Because God wants you to become a member of his family.

His family. And you become a member of his family. He'll look after you, he'll take care of you, he'll lead you, he'll guide you, and he'll take you to what he wants you to do with your life. Amen. I pray for you.

Pray for the children that are here. I want to thank you for every single one of them. And I pray in the name of Jesus, that you'll touch your hearts very early on.

[25 : 29] I pray that they'll fall in love with Jesus. I pray for these children, Father, that they'll give their life to you, that they'll grow up to be young men and young ladies who know and love and walk with God, that they'll become pillars in this community for the glory of God.

I pray that you'll set them free in Jesus and find the will of God for their lives. So we love them and ask you the power of the Holy Spirit speak into their life, help them to come to you, to surrender their life, to surrender their future to you.

Father, that you'll show them the plans that you have for their lives. So we thank you for every single one of them. We pray you'll put your love around them, over them, under them, you'll protect them, you'll lead them, you'll guide them, and you'll use them for the glory of God.

In Jesus' wonderful name. Amen. Amen. Thank you, Gordon, for speaking to the young ones.

That was a treat, wasn't it? It was a treat. We're going to sing now, and we're going to sing to God's praise, the words. There's the top of a bottle of milk in the bag as well, Gordon.

[26 : 50] There's the top of a bottle of milk in the bag as well. You must have bought four boxes, not three. John chapter 8 is the passage that we're going to this morning.

And we'll think about the whole chapter, but we'll read probably just to verse 30. And we'll read from verse 1. Then each went to his own home, but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts where all the people gathered round him and he sat down to teach them. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery.

They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the law, Moses commanded us to stone such woman.

Now what do you say? They were using this question to track him in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger.

[27 : 55] When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her. Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

At this, those who heard began to go away once, one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left with the woman still standing there.

Jesus straightened up and asked her, Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you? No one, sir, she said. Then neither do I condemn you, Jesus declared.

Go now and leave your life of sin. 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.

The Pharisees challenged him, Here you are appearing as your own witness, your testimony is not valid. Jesus answered, Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where I came from and where I am going.

[29 : 01] But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going. You judge by human standards. I pass judgment on no one. But if I do judge, my decisions are right because I am not alone.

I stand with the Father who sent me. In your own law it is written that the testimony of two men is valid. I am one who testifies for myself. My other witness is the Father who sent me.

Then he asked him, Where is your Father? You do not know me or my Father, Jesus replied. If you knew me, you would know my Father also. He spoke these words while teaching in the temple area, yet near the place where the offerings were put, yet no one seized him because his time had not yet come.

Once more Jesus said to them, I am going away and you will look for me and you will die in your sin. Where I go, you cannot come. This made the Jews ask, will he kill himself?

Is that why he says, where I go, you cannot come? But he continued, you are from below, I am from above. You are of this world, I am not of this world.

[30 : 12] I told you that you would die in your sins. If you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be, you indeed will die in your sins. Who are you? They asked.

Just what I have been claiming all along, Jesus replied. I have much the same judgment of you, but he who sent me is reliable. what I have heard from him, I tell the world.

They did not understand that he was telling them about his father. So Jesus said, when you have lifted up the son of man, then you will know that I am the one I claim to be, and that I do nothing on my own, but speak just what the father has taught me.

The one he sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him. even as he spoke, many put their faith in him.

And our prayer is that many of us will put our faith in him, even as we hear God speak through his word this morning. Gordon is going to come lead us in a order prayer please.

[31 : 21] Let us pray. Dear Heavenly Father, we do indeed come before your throne this morning, and we have one plea before you this morning that you would indeed hear and answer our prayers.

Heavenly Father, as we reflect on this past week, and all that has happened, Heavenly Father, and touched us here, when the news came through of an explosion in Manchester, not many of us, Heavenly Father, would have thought that it would have had such ramifications for our island community.

Heavenly Father, all that has happened since then, we think of those, Heavenly Father, that attended that scene on Monday night. Paramedics, doctors, firemen, the police officers, Heavenly Father, that were there.

for all that was before them and all that they had to deal with. The thoughts and many pictures that all flashed through their minds. For the families, Heavenly Father, that heard news of the explosion and knew that their children were there.

Those, Heavenly Father, that cried out in vain, searching for their children. And then, to wake up on Tuesday morning, Heavenly Father, and hear that there was children from our own islands that were lost.

[32 : 53] And those, Heavenly Father, that scrambled to get to Manchester to search for them. Heavenly Father, as news progressed and we heard of one of these girls that had died, their hearts go out to the MacLeod family this morning, to the mother and father and to the sisters.

And we pray, Heavenly Father, that as they wait over these coming days, be able to take their loved one home to bath. And, Heavenly Father, that you would be with them, that you would uphold them. For all the practical things that have to be done that fill their minds at this time. For in the coming days, Heavenly Father, as they take their loved one home, to lay them to rest.

And, Heavenly Father, that you would give them strength. And the days ahead, that you would give them comfort, for you are indeed a God of great comfort. And for the MacIntyre family, Heavenly Father, that sits beside the bed of their daughter, Lord, critically injured at this time, with injuries that will indeed be life-altering.

Heavenly Father, we pray that you would give them strength. as they're filled with mixed emotions, as our friend, Heavenly Father, died and their daughter is alive. And as their hearts go out to the MacLeod family, so our hearts go out to them today.

[34 : 28] And we pray, Heavenly Father, that you would be with those that look after them there in the hospital. That you would guide them in the many decisions that have to be made. And, Heavenly Father, that they would know your hand upon them.

But most of all, Heavenly Father, we come before you as you're indeed the great physician. That, Heavenly Father, that you would lay your healing hand upon them. But in all these things, Heavenly Father, we ask that your will would be done.

We pray for the community of that and the wider community of the Western Isles here, Heavenly Father, each one touched and broken in their own way.

Young lives that have been touched, Heavenly Father, those that knew Ailey and our different activities through the pipe band and in school. That, Heavenly Father, that have seen the young lives snuffed out.

That our prayer would indeed be for each one of these young things. That they would remember their creator in the days of their youth. That, Heavenly Father, that they would come unto you.

[35 : 40] Not only in this time of pain, but for my Father throughout their lives that they would turn to you. And that they would indeed find rest and peace at this time.

I pray for the head teacher and the teaching staff in the school in Castleby. For all that they have been through in this past week. For all that they will go through in the coming weeks in supporting and counselling the children.

And, Heavenly Father, that you would give each one of them strength. We thank you that there is indeed support put in place for them. And for those counsellors and others that come to provide support.

And, Heavenly Father, that you would give them the skills and the words that they would be able to draw on to help these young lives at this time. And for the faith communities there, Heavenly Father, as they come together.

That you would guide them. That you would direct them. And that they would indeed point these young lives to Jesus. That as we heard this morning that they would indeed taste and see that God is good.

[36 : 51] That while there is so much darkness at this time, that only in Jesus is their true light. And, Heavenly Father, as we think of those that have carried out such atrocities.

We pray indeed, Heavenly Father, for the Muslim community at this time as to come to the start of Ramadan. We know that these acts, Heavenly Father, raise up so much tension and hatred within communities.

But we pray for peace. Your peace, Heavenly Father. Even as we read, Heavenly Father, in your word this morning, those that seek to condemn, only you as Lord and God can be our judge.

And we pray, Heavenly Father, that we would leave all these things to you. For those within these faith groups, Heavenly Father, that would indeed put forward ideologies and seek radicalisation of young lives.

our prayer would be that they would know Christ's salvation. And that, Heavenly Father, only through this will we indeed know peace and salvation for our land.

[38 : 13] Heavenly Father, we pray that you would guide us and direct us as a community in these coming days. And that, Heavenly Father, when things may indeed be darkest, that you would indeed shine your blood.

And that your hand of comfort and your everlasting arms would be wrapped around us. And that, Heavenly Father, that we would know that we do not walk through these difficult times in our own. That we uphold one another in prayer. And that you carry us through. And we thank you, Heavenly Father, that we can come this day and that we start of the tent mission here in Harris.

There is an opportunity for each one of us, Heavenly Father, to hear those that cry out that there is no hope in this land. That we can take them along and hear of the hope that there is in Jesus.

And we pray, Heavenly Father, that each one of us would take that opportunity to bring them closer to you. Bring them to hear your word. And bring them to the tent, Heavenly Father, that in hearing that their ears may indeed be opened.

[39 : 26] And their hearts would indeed be turned unto you. Guide us, we pray. Continue as we gather here and gather around your word. And as we sing your praises, Heavenly Father, may you lift our hearts.

In Jesus' precious name, we ask all these things for forgiveness of our sins. Amen. we sing a short verse from Psalm 43 as we come back to study God's word together.

Psalm 43 and we will sing verse 3 of that psalm. And we sing in Galilee. So we remain seated to sing in Galilee.

Send thy light forth stand thy truth. Let them be guides to me and bring me to thine holy hill, even where thy dwellings be. That verse, Psalm 43 and verse 3 in Galilee.

whispered bold round two one a next three and he is Thank you.

[41 : 28] Thank you.

Thank you.

As many of us have passed along the road from Tarbert heading in the direction of Stornoway, we couldn't help but notice a big medical unit that was parked in the hotel car park.

And it was, I understand, a screening unit. And it's a place that you could go to either voluntarily or some were invited to go along into the medical unit.

And essentially you go to have a check carried out. And when that check is carried out, you have a better understanding of, I suppose, the medical truth about oneself.

[43 : 07] And for some it will be a reassuring experience to go into such a place. And for others, invariably, it can be the cause initially of alarm.

But it's always a necessary alarm because often it prompts a timely treatment that can be life-saving. And every time we come to the Bible, in many ways we do a similar thing.

Every passage of Scripture that we open, it's like a screening unit that helps us to understand the truth about ourselves and also the truth about Jesus Christ.

You'll see in the preamble to chapter 8, in many of the translations, there's just a wee sentence that says, In the earliest and most reliable manuscripts and other ancient witnesses do not have John 7, 53 to 8, 11.

So there can be question marks asked about this passage, the first few verses that we've studied. And some of the commentators, when you look at them, they don't believe this should be in the canon of Scripture.

[44 : 25] Others do. And there's a question mark. So what they do is they take the question mark and they leave the question mark there. And say, well, we're not entirely sure about this section, but it's been left in.

I think that's something that can give us confidence in Scripture. Because the question marks are never airbrushed out. They're left in. And I was reading John Calvin on this chapter and Calvin makes the point that this is a passage that seems to fit with the context that goes before it and runs after it.

But this is a passage that clearly fits the character and the teachings of Jesus. And he concludes by saying, let us use this passage to understand things that are true about ourselves and true about the Lord Jesus.

And every passage we come to, the whole of John's Gospel is a book that has been written, inspired by the Spirit, that enables us to understand what is true about the Lord Jesus Christ. Not just about ourselves, not first about ourselves, but about the Lord Jesus Christ. The whole of this Gospel is very pointedly the truth about who Jesus is.

[45 : 46] And the I am sayings are some of the most clear and direct expressions of truth that come from the mouth of Jesus. John 6 is the first one.

And we studied that a couple of weeks ago. And in John chapter 8, we come to the second of the I am sayings. And in verse 12, we hear Jesus speak.

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.

That's the text for today. Jesus' words. I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

When and when did Jesus say this? Well, Jesus said this. And it was at the end of the Feast of Tabernacles.

[46 : 48] And that was a festival where the people, they remembered and they celebrated how God's light had guided them through the wilderness. And ultimately into the promised land.

And the way that they celebrated this festival was lights just shone out from the whole of Jerusalem. And in the temple court especially, there were four huge lights that were illuminated for the course of the festival.

But on the last day of the festival, the biggest, brightest light was unlit. And the reason they left that light unlit was because the people in that place believed that although there was the promise of a coming Messiah, although there was the promise of one who would be the light of the world, the light of the nations, they believed at that point that that promise had not yet been fulfilled.

So that's the backdrop. The last day of the festival, the big lamp is unlit. As they remembered that the promise that they were given of the light of the Messiah was not yet fulfilled.

And so in that place, on that day, Jesus stood up and he said, I am the Messiah. I am the one who was promised.

[48 : 16] I am the Christ. I am the light of the world. And what I'd like to think about today, in the short time we have, is how the light of Christ impacts in such a dark world.

And what do we see the light of Christ doing specifically in the gospel, in the verses that surround this chapter?

Well, there is various points. The first point is that Christ's light guides. The second point is that Christ's light exposes. The third point is that Christ's light gives life to this woman who seems to have no life, no prospect of life, as she's dragged before the authorities.

And the final thing we see is that Christ's light overcomes the darkness. But we'll move at speed through this. First of all, Christ's light guides. And we see that even in the characters that we become familiar with in John's gospel.

One character is Nicodemus. The end of John 7, we've just had our focus again on Nicodemus. Now, Nicodemus, he was an influential, he was a religious, he was a well-recognized man.

[49 : 36] He was Israel's teacher. But John 3 tells us, spiritually speaking, he was in the dark. He might have been regarded as an expert in theology, but he's fumbling around.

He's trying to understand God. And then he sees Jesus. And he's drawn to Jesus.

And he listens to Jesus in John chapter 3. And the light of Christ gradually begins to shine into his soul. And gradually he's guided into this right understanding and this real relationship with the living God in and through Christ.

Christ's light guides. Christ's light guided Nicodemus. Christ's light guides.

Today there's an interest in spiritual things. But there's huge confusion. There's huge darkness in this country. And people are looking for God by looking into themselves.

[51 : 16] And looking into Eastern religions. And looking at cults. And looking at New Age thinking. You cross the water from here. And increasingly you'll find a preoccupation with crystals and cards and stones and all kinds of fairies and fancy thinking and spiritual things.

And the more people explore, the darker it gets. And the less they know of God. What do they need? What do we need?

We need light. And Jesus said, I am the light. Not a light.

The light. Jesus is, as it says in Colossians 1. He is the image of the invisible God. If we want to know who God is.

We don't look in here. We don't look around into the myriad of religions. We don't look to crystals and stones and things. We look to Christ. He is the true light.

[52 : 28] That gives light to every man and woman and boy and girl. That's what it says in John chapter 1 verse 9. Many others claim to be the light.

But Jesus alone is the light. He is the one alone who gives us an accurate guide on who God is and who we are.

So what do we do? Well, we sing and we pray. Send thy light forth and thy truth.

Let them be guides to me. We submit. We ask that God will guide us. I came across this illustration. It's supposed to be the actual transcript. The actual transcript of a US naval ship that was speaking with Canadian authorities off the coast of Newfoundland in October 1995.

[53 : 33] It says here, this radio conversation was released by the Chief of Naval Operations on 10-10-95. I have my doubts about this being the actual transcript.

But it makes a good illustration. I would say it's the alleged transcript. It goes like this. Americans begin the conversation. Worship. And the communication begins with the Canadians.

American warship. Please divert your course. 15 degrees to the north to avoid a collision. They've seen a light ahead. Seen an object. Canadians. Recommend you divert your course.

15 degrees to the south to avoid a collision. Americans. This is the captain of US Navy ship. I say again. Divert your course. Canadians.

No. I say again. You divert your course. Americans. This is the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln. The second largest ship in the United States Atlantic Fleet.

[54 : 31] We are accompanied by three destroyers. Three cruisers. Numerous support vessels. I demand that you change your course. 15 degrees north. That's one five degrees north.

Our countermeasures will be undertaken to ensure the safety of this ship. Canadians. This is a lighthouse. Your call.

Today. How many people are saying to the church. Of Christ.

Adjust your course. Amend your Bible. Revise your faith. To avoid a clash. With the world. But if we do that.

That's the step away from the light. Into darkness. Jesus. Alone. Is the light. We find him.

[55 : 28] In his word. Christ's light alone. Is to be our true guide. So Christ's light. Guides. That's the first point. Second point.

Is that Christ's light. Exposes. Now when. Something is. Sinister. Or wrong. Whether there is criminal activity. Gordon I'm sure would.

Confirm this for us. Usually it happens at night. It's when most of the criminal activity. Happens. It's at night time. If a house is robbed. If a car is stolen. If somebody is assaulted.

Most times. It happens. At night. Why is that? Well it's because darkness gives cover. Darkness shrouds the truth. Of what the offender.

Is intent on doing. Whereas light. Exposes their guilt. Now looking at verses 1 to 11. Of the chapter that we've read. If you've got that open.

[56 : 23] The front of you. You'll find it helpful. So we'll follow just the. The verses through this. Looking at verses 1 through to 11. Of chapter 8. If I was to ask you the question.

Who is it that is being exposed. In these verses. I think our first instinct. Would be to say. Well. Well it's the woman. And even in the title.

The NIV gives it here. Jesus forgives. An adulterous woman. Who is being exposed. Well. We would say. It's the woman that's been exposed. She's the one. Who's alleged to have done the wrong here. But the more we drill into these verses.

The more we look through this. The more we see. It's not just the woman. It's also the teachers of the law. The Pharisees. It's the men in suits. The Pharisees hearts.

Were in darkness. And the people. Didn't know that. As the people looked up to them. And the Pharisees themselves. Probably didn't. Understand that either. But as they come to Jesus.

[57 : 25] They are exposed. To his light. And his light. Begins to. To search them. And bit by bit. Verse by verse.

The darkness. Is seen. Look at verse 3. Jesus. Has this woman. And. She is dragged before him. By these authorities. And they made her stand.

Before this gathered group. And they begin to fire questions. In Jesus direction. About her. She stands there. Or she sits there.

Now. Think about this. Think about that scenario. Try and imagine that scenario. Why did these people. Drag her there. And put her through. Such a. A humiliating episode.

What was the point of it? Was it because they loved her? And they wanted to see her. Pastored.

[58 : 23] And brought back into. A good place. No. Clearly not. The way they deal with her. Has nothing of compassion. It's demeaning.

It's insensitive. It lacks love. It's a part of it. Do they. Do they. Do this because they are.

Full of zeal. About the religious law. In a right way. Again. I think we have to answer that question. By saying no. Because if they were so zealous.

About the law. They wouldn't be planning. To shatter the law. And conspiring. To murder Jesus. Under the cover of darkness. So what's the motivation.

For this scene. What's quite straightforward. It's hatred. Hatred. Of Jesus. They want to silence him.

[59 : 20] They want to trap him. They want to kill him. And that's why they bring the woman. Before him. She's a pawn. In their plan. One commentator. Montgomery Boyce.

He argues. The whole thing's a set up. He says. The woman may be guilty. Where's the man? She was caught in the act. Where's the man?

Why is he not there? The law requires. Clearly. That both. Would be taken into that place. And tried. And punished. And yet. There's no sign of the man. So the whole thing stinks.

It's a clever trap. Because if Jesus. Says. Yes. Stone her. As the Jewish law requires. The Romans. The Romans will step in.

And say. Jesus. You have no authority. To say that. We are those. Who exercise law. In this place. And yet. If Jesus says. Never mind her. Just let her go. Forget about what the law says.

[60 : 16] Then he's a heretic. And he's a lawbreaker. And they'll be honest case. Instantly. It's a clever trap. But it isn't clever enough.

Because wisdom. Finds its source. In Christ. And Jesus. Wisdom. And his compassion. Are breathtaking. In his response. Look at verse 6. In the fury.

And the heat. Of all that's going on. Jesus. Verse 6. He takes a moment. And he bends down.

And he starts to write. On the ground. In the mud. With his finger. What did he write? I don't know what he wrote. People have written PhDs.

Speculating over what he wrote. But we don't know what he wrote. Because we're not told. Maybe he was doodling. Just hoping that in the silence. The Pharisees would disappear.

[61 : 14] And realize the error of their ways. Maybe he was writing the commandments. That's what some of the commentators speculate over. But we don't know. Verse 7.

They are not willing to go away. They keep on questioning him. They keep on badgering him. And so Jesus. He straightens up. In verse 8. And we can imagine. Stand up. And look them in the eye. And then he says to the gathered group. Verse 8. If any one of you. Is without sin. Let him be the first to throw a stone at her. And one by one.

The older. Wiser. First. The younger. More foolish. Later. Perhaps. One by one. They left. Until there was no one there. They came to expose. This woman. They came to expose. Jesus. [62:16] But what they found. Was that. The light. Of Jesus. Was trained. Upon them. And as they come. Under that light.

What they realize. One by one. Is that no one can pick up a stone. Because all are sinners. And all. Are guilty. So when they realize that. What do they do? They run. They get as far away. From the light.

Of Christ. As they can. But the woman. What does she do? She stays.

Likely she knows her sin. But she stays with Jesus. And again. Verse nine. Jesus straightens up. [63:14] And verse ten. He says to her. Has no one condemned you? And she answers. No one. Sir. The better translation. There is actually. No one. Lord. And Jesus says.

Neither then. Do I condemn you. Go on. Leave. Your life. Of sin. And it just fits so powerfully. With that chapter. Where we did study Nicodemus. John chapter three. Think about these verses. In the light of this story. For God. So loved the world. That he gave his one and only son.

That whoever. Believes in him. Shall not perish. But have eternal life. For God. Did not send his son. Into the world. To condemn the world. But to save the world.

Through him. So Christ's light. Guides us. Christ's light. Exposes. Sin. Thirdly.

[64:17] Christ's light. Gives light. It gives life. To the world. In particular. Now we think about this. In the broadest possible terms. If there is no light.

There is no life. If there is no light. Plants don't grow. Plants don't grow. It's anything. We can't breathe. We can't thrive. Life dies out.

And this woman. She's dragged before Jesus. In a very dark moment. She's under charge of death. And she's guilty. You could say that she's a dead woman.

Walking. And she encounters Jesus. And she meets him. Not as judge. But as saviour. And lord. As she addresses him. And she leaves with her life. She comes into the scene. Under the destructive lordship. Of sin. But she leaves.

[65:12] Under the life giving lordship. Of Christ. That's the summary of the story. And it's such a beautiful.

It's such a helpful. Such a hopeful story. And I pray it's yours. Every one of ours. Because this can be the testimony.

Of everyone who is gathered here today. Because the light of Christ still shines. This is the day of grace. This is the word of God.

That is open. And the light of Christ. Still shines. And in love. Every one of us. Like the woman.

As his light shines. The darkness of our sin. In our souls. Is exposed. Now why does Christ do that? Is it to depress us?

[66:11] Is it to humiliate us? Of course it's not. Christ's light shines. Into our souls.

Showing us our sin. So that we will see our sin. And then we will ask. That he will take that deadening sin.

From us. Sin. Sin. Is like a ticking bomb. In our hearts. Now. If any of us.

Became aware. Of a ticking bomb. In our neighbor's garden. What would we do? We would go to them. In love. And say. Don't ignore that. Let's get it out of there.

Let's get it defused. Let's get it removed. Let's get the area cleared. If you become aware. There was a deadly snake. In your brother's house. What would you do? You wouldn't say.

[67:08] Well I hope. They never crossed paths. You would say to him. Get that thing out of there. That can do damage. That can bring death. Get it removed. It's a loving thing to do.

And Jesus. In love. He tells us about the sin. That is in our hearts. How cruel.

A culture we live in. When to talk about sin. Is criticized for being. Lacking in compassion.

What a perversion of the truth. If we see sin. We must tell people. And sin is in every one of us.

So we must be aware. As the gospel. Is presented to us. We must be aware. That the sin. That is in our hearts. Must be dealt with. Because it leads to eternal death.

[68:11] That's why Jesus tells the woman. That's why Jesus tells us. That's why God's word. Tells us about our sin. Not to upset us. Not to enrage us. But because he loves us.

And his desire is that none will perish. None will. Verse 24. Die in their sin. But rather. We'll believe. And we'll be forgiven.

And we'll live. Pharisees. When their sin is exposed. What do they do? They run. Like beasts. From under a stone. And you lift it up. You know. You pick up a big stone. In the garden. All these beasts. You're being so comfortable. In the dark. They're gone. It's like the Pharisees. Can't bear the light. So they charge off. Cursing Christ. As they go. Determining. They will kill him. They will silence him. And in doing so.

[69 : 11] They take their deadly. Untreated sin. With them. But this woman. She stays. She doesn't.

Contest her sin. She doesn't. Argue with Jesus. She listens to him. As he calls her. To turn. From the darkness. Of her sin. To repent. Turn in faith to him. And live. Question is. What will you do today? If God. Has shown you. Your sin. If your sin. Bothers you. But keeps you up at night. If God. Has put you under conviction. What will you do? Will you try and stifle.

[70 : 09] The voice of Christ. Will you run from him? Will you flood your life. With every possible distraction. So you don't have to deal with him. Or will you come to him.

And stay with him. As the woman did. And remain. In him. Will we come to Jesus. Even now. And say.

Yes I am a sinner. In love you have shown me. Please. Cleanse me from my sin. Please. Purify me from. All unrighteousness.

Please. Shield me. From the eternal death. That my sin deserves. Please assure me. That I am not heading for hell. But I have the assurance. Of heaven. Because of what.

You have done. Lord Jesus. Will you do that? As Christ's light shines in. What will we do? Christ's light. Christ's light.

[71 : 09] Gives life. To the woman. And it gives light. To every woman. And man. And boy. And girl. That looks to him. Yes it exposes our sin.

And yes. We are guided. To Christ. The final thing. Just very very briefly. Christ's light. Overcomes. The darkness. And that was the promise.

From John 1.5. That darkness. Would not. Overcome. But the light. Would overcome. The darkness. Darkness. It's the promise. That we hang on to today. In a dark.

And sad world. Through Syria. Apolling. Events. That many have had to deal with. We can be tempted. To lose all hope.

But we need to remember. Ultimately. The darkness. The darkness. Will not overcome. When Jesus returns. The darkness.

[72 : 11] Of sin. Will recoil. Never to return. And the light. Of Christ. Will forever shine. Among his people.

Yes. There will be a place. Of outer darkness. For all those. Who will not turn. To Christ. And those who will. Determine to go on. In sin. Will eternally pay. And receive justice.

For what they have done. But for those. Who are in Christ. There will come a day. Revelation 21. Where we will not read. The papers anymore. And hear these things. We will not see. Such cruel.

Suffering. And darkness. Envelop the world. For the light of Christ.

Will forever shine. For the light of Christ. For the light of Christ. For the light of Christ. But in this situation. As we finish. The question I want to ask is. How did this happen? How was this possible?

[73 : 09] Because think about the woman. Was she guilty? Well as far as we know she was. Does the law require punishment? It does. So how can a guilty woman.

Walk away free? How can a woman. Who is condemned legally. To death. Escape death. And be given life. And the answer is the cross.

That's how. And even in this chapter. We see. A foreshadow of the cross. The woman goes free. The stones that were set up.

And ready. To have her crushed to death. They're still on the ground. They're not touched. As she walks free. But as the chapter ends.

We didn't read it. We didn't have time. You'll see in verse 59. Stones are picked up. Not directed at the woman.

[74 : 08] But there are stones. That are picked up. In order to stone Christ. And that was only the beginning. Of what he would suffer. See.

The woman's sin. It could not be overlooked. By a holy God. And so instead. Her sin. Is overcome. It's not overlooked.

It's overcome. She doesn't suffer. And die for it. But Jesus would suffer. And die for it. By taking it. Upon himself. And overcoming sin. And overcoming Satan. And overcoming death. And overcoming hell. And overcoming darkness.

Because. The sinless. Savior died. My guilty soul. And hers. Christ. Is counted free. For God the just.

[75 : 07] Is satisfied. To look on him. Christ. And pardon me. And so this story.

That. For her. Begins with such terror. And darkness. And. Danger. Ends. With light. And safety. And hope. The darkness. Did not. Overcome. In her life. And the darkness. Need not.

Overcome. In the life. Of anyone. Who still has ears to hear. Because Jesus said. I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me.

Will never walk in darkness. That will have a light. Of life. We'll pray. Lord.

[76 : 15] We thank you for the hope. Of the gospel. We thank you that you are. A God. Who in holiness. Does not overlook sin. We thank you that in Christ. You have made it possible.

For our sin. And the darkness of our sin. To be overcome. Through all that Jesus did. On the cross. Enable us to look to him. To put our faith in him.

Not to quarrel with you. Not to run from you. As you show us our sin. But Lord. To run to you. And find forgiveness. And life. We pray this in Jesus name.

Amen. We'll sing to finish. The words on the screen. It's on hymn number 168.

Point 68. Which is a paraphrase of the promise from Isaiah chapter 9. That promise of Jesus coming. To be Messiah. The race that long in darkness pine.

[77 : 14] Have seen a glorious light. The people dwell in day. Who dwell in death's surrounding night. We'll stand and sing to God's praise. The people dwell in day. Let's sing to God's praise. The people dwell in day.

The people dwell in day.

Who dwell in day. The people dwell in day. In day. The people dwell in day. The people dwell in day. The people dwell in day. To us a child of hope is born.

To us a son is killed. Him shall the tribes of earth obey.

Him or the horse of heaven. His days shall be the prince of peace.

[78 : 34] For evermore adore. The wonderful.

The powerful. The powerful. The powerful. The powerful. The great. The mighty Lord.

His power. His power. In missing still shall spread. His window and shall know.

justice shall guard. His glory above. And peace above.

The Lord. And I may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. And the love of God the Father. And the fellowship of God the Holy Spirit. Be with us all both now and forevermore.

[79 : 37] Amen. I will hear you speaking lines. ■■■ about father who bless him.

I will ring for us all. This was a whole day I am wooden in front. I am wooden in front of Huge abbiamo flashers. In the light of joy David Happy Nina and ■■■ Velho Johan only. If a foundation of Rights did not makeiri Sanding back. Joseph ■■■ knows everything.

In the light of job you have a silver. The resource we prayed for. The liquid angel croisator is his autobiography. Invictus Entertainment and Qurish gedron is a protector.