* **Apostles Creed**
* **Series Slide**
* A few blocks away from a Christian college in the suburbs of Chicago. sits a house on a tree-lined street that looks like another ordinary house.
* But its not.
* Its known among the university students as the House of Despair. The H.O.D. for short.
* Night after night, students fill it up to drink, do drugs, have sex, and have raw conversations.
* You might think the HOD is just another Animal House…just common co-ed rebellious hijinks.
* But the students who go there aren’t looking to cut loose…they’re trying to numb the pain of what they perceive as “Christian failure”.
* Skye Jethani was a pastor near this Christian school and told the story of the HOD in his book “WITH”.
* He heard about the House of Despair from two students he was mentoring and decided to have some conversations with some of the students that went there.
* Here are some of the things they said.
* **“Everyone [on campus] has life figured out. They’ve got God figured out. And they’re going to change the world for Christ. At least that’s what they say. And if you begin to question things, if you show signs of doubting any of it, you’re shunned. So you’ve got to keep up the façade that everything’s okay- that you’re not a mess inside.”**
* In fact, the behavior of the students there often isn’t about rebelling or giving themselves over to base passions…its just a signal to say to other people that they are struggling, too.
* One student said- **“I don’t drink because I like the alcohol. In fact, I usually don’t drink at all. I just hold the beer in my hand. Because drinking is how you know who’s safe. When you drink with another student, you know that you can trust them. You’ve both broken the code of ethics- it's a sign you can be honest about other** **things too. They’re a safe person- you don’t have to pretend with them.”**

After talking to a half dozen students, Skye decided to give an alternative to the House of Despair. So he opened up some anonymous student groups where people could come in and process their doubts and fears without wondering if they would be judged.

Skye asked them how they thought God viewed them in the middle of their sin, and this is what they said.

**“I think God is disappointed with me. I come from a great family with godly parents. I’ve been given everything imaginable, including a great education. And now I’m in college being prepared to impact the world for Christ. I think God’s really disappointed when I sin because he expects better from me.”**

**“How am I going to achieve what God wants from me if I’m still stuck in these same sins again and again?”**

**“My parents were students at a Christian college in the early 90s when a revival broke out. A bunch of grads that year became missionaries and pastors. They were on fire for God. And here I am consumed by sin day after day. I don’t feel like I’m supposed to be here. I know I’m not who God wants me to be.”**

All of the students who showed up to this group had grown up in Xian homes and went to church all their lives…yet the primary message they had understood about God was that **“God is disappointed with me because of ongoing struggles with a behavior. God expects more from me. And he cannot use me to accomplish his work in the world until I clean up my act.”**

Not a single person. Not a single person when asked, “How does God feel about you when you sin?” said…”He loves me.”

…which means they haven’t only misunderstood Xianity…they don’t even understand Christ.

**Title Slide- “Moving Out of the H.O.D.: How Hope Comes to Humans Who Can’t Prove Their Worth”- John 7-8**

Up to this point in the gospel of John, nearly every time Jesus performs a sign or has a conversation…people misunderstand.

In fact, the book starts out with people calling Jesus 7 different titles… setting us up to help us ask a question “Who is this man called Jesus?”

John’s aim is that you, the reader, not only understand Jesus, but that by believing him, trusting him…that you finally find the good life. The kind of life where no matter what you’ve done, what you’re doing or what’s been done to you or what’s happening to you in the moment… when someone asks you “How does God feel about you today?” The answer will be quick and confident.

“He loves me.”

**John 7:1-15**

* **After this, Jesus traveled in Galilee, since he did not want to travel in Judea because the Jews were trying to kill him.**
* **2 The Jewish Festival of Shelters was near. 3 So his brothers said to him, “Leave here and go to Judea so your disciples can see your works that you are doing. 4 For no one does anything in secret while he’s seeking public recognition. If you do these things, show yourself to the world.” 5 (For not even his brothers believed in him.)**
* **6 Jesus told them, “My time has not yet arrived, but your time is always at hand. 7 The world cannot hate you, but it does hate me because I testify about it ​— ​that its works are evil. 8 Go up to the festival yourselves. I’m not going up to this festival, because my time has not yet fully come.” 9 After he had said these things, he stayed in Galilee.**
* **10 After his brothers had gone up to the festival, then he also went up, not openly but secretly. 11 The Jews were looking for him at the festival and saying, “Where is he? ” 12 And there was a lot of murmuring about him among the crowds. Some were saying, “He’s a good man.” Others were saying, “No, on the contrary, he’s deceiving the people.” 13 Still, nobody was talking publicly about him for fear of the Jews.**

**14 When the festival was already half over, Jesus went up into the temple and began to teach. 15 Then the Jews were amazed and said, “How is this man so learned, since he hasn’t been trained?”**

* **John 7:28-34**
* **As he was teaching in the temple, Jesus cried out, “You know me and you know where I am from. Yet I have not come on my own, but the one who sent me is true. You don’t know him; 29 I know him because I am from him, and he sent me.”**
* **30 Then they tried to seize him. Yet no one laid a hand on him because his hour had not yet come. 31 However, many from the crowd believed in him and said, “When the Messiah comes, he won’t perform more signs than this man has done, will he? ” 32 The Pharisees heard the crowd murmuring these things about him, and so the chief priests and the Pharisees sent servants to arrest him.**

**33 Then Jesus said, “I am only with you for a short time. Then I’m going to the one who sent me. 34 You will look for me, but you will not find me; and where I am, you cannot come.”**

**John 7:37-44**

* **37 On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus stood up and cried out,“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. 38 The one who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, will have streams of living water flow from deep within him.” 39 He said this about the Spirit. Those who believed in Jesus were going to receive the Spirit, for the Spirit had not yet been given because Jesus had not yet been glorified.**

**40 When some from the crowd heard these words, they said, “This truly is the Prophet.” 41 Others said, “This is the Messiah.” But some said, “Surely the Messiah doesn’t come from Galilee, does he? 42 Doesn’t the Scripture say that the Messiah comes from David’s offspring and from the town of Bethlehem, where David lived? ” 43 So the crowd was divided because of him. 44 Some of them wanted to seize him, but no one laid hands on him.**

**John 8:12-16**

* **12 Jesus spoke to them again: “I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life.”**
* **13 So the Pharisees said to him, “You are testifying about yourself. Your testimony is not valid.”**

**14 “Even if I testify about myself,” Jesus replied, “My testimony is true, because I know where I came from and where I’m going. But you don’t know where I come from or where I’m going. 15 You judge by human standards. I judge no one. 16 And if I do judge, my judgment is true, because it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me.**

**John 8:19-38**

* **19 Then they asked him, “Where is your Father? ”**

**“You know neither me nor my Father,” Jesus answered.“If you knew me, you would also know my Father.” 20 He spoke these words by the treasury, while teaching in the temple. But no one seized him, because his hour had not yet come.**

* **21 Then he said to them again,“I’m going away; you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I’m going, you cannot come.”**
* **22 So the Jews said again, “He won’t kill himself, will he, since he says,‘Where I’m going, you cannot come’ ? ”**
* **23 “You are from below,” he told them, “I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. 24 Therefore I told you that you will die in your sins. For if you do not believe that I am he, you will die in your sins.”**
* **25 “Who are you? ” they questioned.**
* **“Exactly what I’ve been telling you from the very beginning,” Jesus told them. 26 “I have many things to say and to judge about you, but the one who sent me is true, and what I have heard from him ​— ​these things I tell the world.”**

**27 They did not know he was speaking to them about the Father. 28 So Jesus said to them, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own. But just as the Father taught me, I say these things. 29 The one who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, because I always do what pleases him.”**

* **30 As he was saying these things, many believed in him.**
* **31 Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him,“If you continue in my word, you really are my disciples. 32 You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”**
* **33 “We are descendants of Abraham,” they answered him, “and we have never been enslaved to anyone. How can you say, ‘You will become free’? ”**

**34 Jesus responded, “Truly I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin. 35 A slave does not remain in the household forever, but a son does remain forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you really will be free. 37 I know you are descendants of Abraham, but you are trying to kill me because my word has no place among you. 38 I speak what I have seen in the presence of the Father; so then, you do what you have heard from your father.”**

**John 8:42-47**

**42 Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, because I came from God and I am here. For I didn’t come on my own, but he sent me. 43 Why don’t you understand what I say? Because you cannot listen to my word. 44 You are of your father the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he speaks from his own nature, because he is a liar and the father of lies. 45 Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. 46 Who among you can convict me of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don’t you believe me? 47 The one who is from God listens to God’s words. This is why you don’t listen, because you are not from God.”**

* **John 8:48-59**

**48 The Jews responded to him, “Aren’t we right in saying that you’re a Samaritan and have a demon? ”**

* **49 “I do not have a demon,” Jesus answered.“On the contrary, I honor my Father and you dishonor me. 50 I do not seek my own glory; there is one who seeks it and judges. 51 Truly I tell you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.”**
* **52 Then the Jews said, “Now we know you have a demon. Abraham died and so did the prophets. You say,‘If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’ 53 Are you greater than our father Abraham who died? And the prophets died. Who do you claim to be? ”**
* **54 “If I glorify myself,” Jesus answered, “my glory is nothing. My Father ​— ​about whom you say, ‘He is our God’ ​— ​he is the one who glorifies me. 55 You do not know him, but I know him. If I were to say I don’t know him, I would be a liar like you. But I do know him, and I keep his word. 56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day; he saw it and was glad.”**
* **57 The Jews replied, “You aren’t fifty years old yet, and you’ve seen Abraham? ”**
* **58 Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, before Abraham was, I am.”**

**59 So they picked up stones to throw at him. But Jesus was hidden and went out of the temple.**

**Transition:** You may have noticed that I skipped over a very popular story at the first of chapter 8. Mainly, its because I don’t believe its inspired Scripture based on historical Textual evidence (as is probably noted in your Bible). That doesn’t mean the story isn’t true. It rained yesterday, and that’s not in the Bible, but its true. It also doesn’t mean the story isn’t valuable. In fact, I think the reason it was added late is because as people read Chapter 7 & 8 in John’s gospel, they realized this story about Jesus was a perfect summary of the truths in these chapters. That's why it got put right smack in the middle of this story of Jesus at this festival. By the end, I’ll show you why…but to get there, lets figure out what John intended us to see about Jesus, before that story was added.

**1) Divorcing Purpose from Presence breeds despair.**

**Jesus keeps Witness and With-ness together**.

* + Often, when a college student asks the question “What should I do with my life?” what they are actually asking is “How can I prove my worth? What can I do to prove I’m valuable…to my family, to the world…to God?”
  + And listen, it doesn’t stop after you get out of college. It doesn’t even stop when you become successful in every perceivable way.
  + Just last week, the Patriots were eliminated from the playoffs by some team I can’t remember. Tom Brady’s final pass of the season was a Touchdown…to the other team. And he even though he has the greatest career of any football player EVER, he said last week he wants to come back and play because he still has something to prove. YOU WILL ALWAYS BE TEMPTED THAT LIFE IS ABOUT PROVING YOUR WORTH…to yourself, to your family, to the world…to God.
  + That’s why those students ended up in the House of Despair. They understood God primarily as a person who had sent them on a mission to change the world. To do something with their lives that counted...and in turn, made them count.
  + And when they couldn’t figure it out. When they couldn’t even keep their own personal life in order…the pressure of changing the world simply became unbearable.
  + They made the mistake of divorcing God’s PURPOSE from his PRESENCE.
  + I see this over and over and over and over with Christians. They want to live a life FOR God…but never actually live a life WITH God.
  + But Jesus, never separates his Father’s presence WITH HIM from his mission to preach the good news of the Kingdom. Or to be a WITNESS. He never separates WITH-NESS from WITNESS.
  + **7:28-29**
  + Jesus is teaching in the temple Jesus talks about KNOWING his Father and also being SENT by his Father.
  + **8:16**
  + Jesus says, “I’m not doing my work alone, I am working WITH the Father who SENT me.”
  + **8:26**
  + Jesus says, “What I tell you I first receive from the Father.” In other words, I’m with the Father…and I hear from him…and then I am sent to you to tell you what he says. I cannot divorce my purpose to be a witness to what the Father says if I’m not actually in tune with my Father and listening to him.
  + **8:29**
  + Jesus says- The one who Sent me is With me. He has not left me alone, because I always do what pleases him.
  + Jesus is so in tune with God the Father, that his Sent-ness..his mission is a direct overflow from being WITH the Father.
  + **8:38**
  + That's evident here when Jesus says, “I speak (witness) What I have seen in the presence of the Father (withness)”
  + Do you see that? Jesus’ mission to SAY and DO what the Father sent him to do ONLY happens because he is constantly WITH his Father.
  + **8:55**
  + Jesus equates KNOWING GOD (with-ness) with Keeping his word (WITNESS)
  + Yet, “With-ness”, or practicing God’s presence is something most Christians either don’t know HOW to do, or just completely ignore.
* **Back to 1)**
  + When you make Christianity solely about mission for God, and there is no BEING WITH God, one of two things is going to happen.
  + Either…You’ll be unbelievably successful in all the measurable “Mission” categories. You’ve led people to follow Jesus. You’ve started neighborhood bible studies. You’ve traveled to 7 countries on mission trips….you’ve done a whole lot of stuff for GOD, but you’ll be like Tom Brady…it will never be enough. There will always be more impact to make…more world to change…more mission to accomplish. And each little bit will be another attempt to prove your worth…one more time. That will drive your anxiety through the roof. Your friends and family will pay the price because you’ll explode on them in moments where they are keeping you from proving yourself…so you’ll figure out a way to even use private time with them to broadcast to the world that you’re on mission…by snapping a quick selfie of your date night..cause you gotta date your spouse and model that for the world to see…or a quick pic of your family having fun…because you gotta teach the world that God calls us all to love our families…and the minute the phone is back in your pocket…you’ll go on being a class A jerk to them. You’ll take shortcuts with your private life and character, but strive to keep your public life squeaky clean. And that will implode on you one day. If not sooner, than it will implode on you in the LAST DAY.
  + **Matt 7:21-23**
  + Jesus says that there will be people who spend their lives divorcing God’s purposes from his presence…the Father’s instructions, from the FATHER himself…and Jesus will say to them I never “KNEW YOU.”
* **Back to 1)**
  + OR, if your aren’t successful in your ministry or mission…you will be an utter failure at proving your worth by your mission…and you’ll end up in the House of Despair…either literally…or metaphorically. Numbing your pain with drugs, alcohol, sex, or buying, eating, and consuming your way out of that feeling of failure.
  + Withness and witness, God’s presence WITH YOU and his PURPOSE for you were never intended to be separated, yet the American church has done this in spades. Because, honestly, it takes too long.
  + Jesus, God in the Flesh, spent 30 years in anonymity, faithfully tending to daily mundane responsibilities, learning the Scripture, talking with his family and community about it, praying to his Father, listening in times of silence….before we are ever introduced to his ministry in the Gospels.
  + So, here’s my question for you to ponder this morning. Do you have a plan for WITH-NESS in 2020?
  + Very simply, do you have moments in your day, time carved out to Read the Bible, pray, sit quietly without distraction and listen for God? Do you have a community of people to do that WITH?
  + Because that’s where you start.
  + If you are looking for a way to do that, I’ll give you one way to start. Download the city church app…and scroll down on the home page until you get to The Common Rule. Also you can go to our web page and find our SOUL HANDLE Resources. Those will help you get started.
  + If you want to have a more pointed conversation about that, please email our elders. [elders@borocitychurch.com](mailto:elders@borocitychurch.com).
* Transition: Nothing is more important than KNOWING God. Because mission…sent-ness…WITNESS flows OUT of knowing God. But knowing God doesn't automatically flow out of being sent. But, when you are deeply attached to the Father through his son Jesus Christ…well, Jesus gives us a great picture of what that life of mission looks like.

**2) When your worth comes from With-ness, your Witness becomes humble, patient, discerning, and meaningful.**

* + When you are constantly trying to prove yourself…whether that’s in a “Xian ministry” sense…or if its whatever sort of job or action you think will make you worth something…even the good things you do for people are really self-centered.
  + You aren’t mainly serving people out of love…you are serving them to feel a sense of worth.
  + You aren’t mainly sharing the gospel of Jesus with people because its such good sweet beautiful news that God has invited us to be WITH HIM…you are sharing it because you think doing so validates you.
  + So, you can never do it humbly…because its always about you proving yourself.
  + But watch Jesus here.
  + **7:3-5**
  + The Festival of Shelters (or Tabernacles) was one of the Jewish festivals that celebrated God’s faithfulness to Israel during the Exodus…to provide for them, to lead them, and to always be present with them as he led them to Canaan.
  + So, Jesus brothers (like Mary’s other kids) tell him that he should be posting on Socials more.
  + He needs to show up at this festival and do some more miracles. Do the Bread and fish thing again. Walk on water. Turn water to wine.
  + Because why in the WORLD…if you could do those things…if you had the POWER to do all those things…wouldn’t you show them off and shut the haters up.
  + John tells us that even his brothers were hating on Jesus.
  + Why? Why keep this stuff under wraps?
  + Why not show up and shoot lasers out of your fingers and say “Take that Atheists!”
  + **7:6-8**
  + Jesus tells them why. He says he understands his Father’s timing…and they don’t.
  + Jesus tells them, you aren’t ever thinking about who God is…or how he operates…so when you just do whatever you want whenever you want. You say and do whatever helps you fit in. You don’t ever rub anyone the wrong way…because you always take the path of least resistance.
  + But, every phrase I say, Every move I make, Every word I say…is overflowing from my connection with the Father. So I think about timing. Because people are not going to like some of what I say and do.
  + Did you see that? Jesus is humble. Even though he is GOD in the flesh…his life is not about flexing. He is always considering his Father’s timing. He’s very discerning…thinking about how people will react and receive him. Every moment is a moment that he can intentionally be about his mission. And that means…every single moment…even seemingly insignificant ones... like when to go to a festival…become deeply meangingful.
  + Jesus is sure of who he is…so he doesn’t jump at the chance to broadcast it every time he has the opportunity.
  + Think about that.
  + When you see or hear someone constantly posting on social media about their life, or constantly telling you how what they’ve accomplished…underneath is probably a person deeply unsure of who they are…or what they are really worth to God?
  + Because, when you know who God is…and have spent enough time with him that he has uncovered who YOU really are…you simply don’t have to have constant reinforcement of your worth anymore.
  + With-ness allows us to **operate in humility**. You aren’t competing. Life isn’t about getting worth you don’t have, because you already have the deepest worth you can possibly have….you know God, he calls you child. Friend.
  + **7:12**
  + And look, people were undecided about Jesus. Some people were tearing into his character saying he was a deceiver. Jesus could have defended himself.
  + He could have put people in their place, but he was humble, patient, discerning, and had a deeper meaning to his life than protecting himself.
  + Reminds me of a story about the late philosophy professor and theologian Dallas Williard. He was speaking at a conference one time and a man stood up and contradicted him, telling him how his ideas were wrong. Dallas Williard let the man speak and then thanked him for his insight. Then, he sat down. Later, someone asked him, “Why didn’t you put that guy in his place? You easily could have shown everyone in the room that you were right and he was wrong.” To which WIlliard replied, “I was practicing the discipline of not having the last word.”
  + Humility, Discernment, Patience….and meaning. Every moment sure of your worth, because you walk in WITHNESS with GOD.
  + **7:15-16**
  + Even when the response is good to Jesus, people say “your teaching is incredible.
  + Jesus says, My teaching isn’t mine. I’m just telling you what my father said to tell you.
  + **7:24 & 8:15-16**
  + Twice in these passages Jesus talks about the difference in his discernment or judging and the Jewish leaders discernment. He says they judge by OUTWARD APPEARANCES, rather than practicing WITHNESS with the Father and understanding people through his lense.
  + And how does Jesus judge. Not by outward appearance. He does it humbly, patiently, and understanding the deep meaning that every moment, every word can have.
* **Back to 2)**
* Now, remember that story that got added in the middle of this larger story about Jesus at this festival?
* You might be familiar with it. Its about a trap that the scribes and Pharisees set for Jesus. They catch a woman in adultery…they bring her to Jesus in a crowd…and they say, “Jesus, the law of Moses says that this woman is to be stoned. What do you say?”
* The idea is that either Jesus is going to have to break the law of Moses…or brutally agree to a mob killing of this woman. Either way, they think it should end Jesus’ following.
* But Jesus, discerning beyond outward appearances, not thinking about himself, and patient and understanding the gravity of the moment…how fragile this woman is in front of him…who is probably asking “How can I prove my worth?”…
* Jesus says, “The one without sin should throw the first stone”. And everyone dropped their rocks and walked away.
* **8:10-11**
* **When Jesus stood up, he said to her,“Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you? ”**
* **11 “No one, Lord,” she answered.**
* **“Neither do I condemn you,” said Jesus.“Go, and from now on do not sin anymore.”]**
* Did you notice something there? Jesus tells her first that she is not condmended. She is forgiven. She is worth something already. She doesn’t have to prove herself to God. He tells her about her “With-ness” before he gives her the command to WITNESS- Go and sin no more.
* The order of that is so important. If he switches it…and says…if you can go from here and sin no more…then I won’t condemn you…this woman will be in the House of Despair in a matter of days. She can’t keep operate under the pressure of proving herself. But God always starts and sustains us with HIMSELF…WITH NESS- before he asks us to be a WITNESS.
* **8:59**

**TRANSITION:** But did you notice the opposite is happening to Jesus all throughout this story? This woman, though she is guilty, is not condemned and killed. But Jesus, though he is completely righteous and innocent…by the end of this passage is being targeted for his own stoning.

Its as if he is trading places with this woman. And indeed..that’s exactly what’s happening.

**3) Jesus moved into our House of Despair to move us into his Father’s house.**

* + At the Festival of Tabernacles or Shelters or Booths (depending on what translation you have) was a yearly celebration of God’s provision for and presence with Israel in the desert after their Exodus from Egypt.
  + That story is told in the book of Exodus.
  + And there were two ceremonies that happened during this festival to help everyone remember those things about God.
  + Wandering in Wilderness
  + Living in tents
  + God promised to dwell (or TABERNACLE) with them in his own tent.
  + So they built God a tent
  + And God would guide them through the hot desert by day w a cloud
  + And through the cold, dark nights with a plllar of fire to light the way to the land that he promised them.
  + Additionally, twice they were dying of thirst, and God made water spout from a Rock to keep them alive.
  + So there were 2 parts of this ceremony that celebrated that.
  + First they had what was called a water ceremony.
  + At this ceremony the High Priest would carry a golden container filled with water from the pool of Siloam in a little mini-parade back to the temple and offer it to God on the altar during a feast on the seventh day of the “Festival of Tabernacles”. The water symbolized the rainfall that God had given for the crops that year along with the water he provided for them in the desert.
  + Jesus stood up in the middle of this feast and cried out
  + **John 7:37-38 If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his HEART will flow rivers of living water’”**
  + Basically, Jesus was saying, “Enough with the water routine, I am everything you need to change you from the inside out. I am the water God provides. This ceremony is all about me.”
  + Come to me. BE WITH ME…and I will give you my Spirit who will ALWAYS BE WITH YOU. Then from that Spirit GOD WILL POUR OUT OF YOU TO OTHERS.
  + WIthness with Jesus who is with the Father will result in WITNESS to others as you are WITH THEM.
  + The other ceremony was one about light. Every year during the Feast of Tabernacles,
  + Two giant candelabras were lit with hundreds of candles- illuminated entire section of Jerusalem where the temple was
  + This was to remind them of the light they followed in the form of a cloud or a pillar of fire through the desert.
  + It reminded them that God never left them during the dark, cold desert nights. That his presence was promised to them and would lead them, help them discern the way.
  + Right in front of those candles, Jesus was teaching
  + **8:12**
  + SO when he says “**I am the light of the world, Whoever FOLLOWS me will not walk in darkness, but have the light of life”**
  + He is saying, “The God that was in that pillar of fire, showing you where to go, giving you his presence. That was me…and its still me today.”
  + If you want a life that is not marked by the darkness of your own sinful heart, if you want a life that in turn lights the way for others…follow me. Come to me and you will never walk without me.
  + **8:32**
  + Jesus later says, “you will know the Truth, and The Truth will set you free”
  + That doesn’t mean the truth as a concept. And it doesn’t mean know as “be aware of”. He doesn’t mean that knowing 2+2=4 will set you free.
  + He means the truth as a person. Himself. And by KNOWING…he means intimacy…WITHNESS.

**14:2 & 6**

* + Later in John Jesus will say “I’m going to prepare a place for you, and though you can’t come with me now…I am preparing a place for you in my Father’s house.”
  + Then one of his disciples ask, how can we know how to get there.
  + And Jesus replies “I AM the Way (like the Pillar of fire in the desert), the Truth, and the LIFE (like the spring of water from the rock). No one comes to the Father except through me.”
* Here’s the question that remains to be answered.
  + **8:24**
  + Jesus said that “You will die in your sins.” And yet..when there was a woman ready to die in her sins…by stoning…he spared her…and the target fell on him.
  + WHy?
  + **8:28-29**
  + Because Jesus would eventually be lifted up, not in honor and glory as he should have been… but on the cross. A convicted and shameful criminal.
  + And he says, when you see me on that cross… you will know that I am God. That I am everything I say I am. The water, the light, way, the truth, the life.
  + And indeed, the soldier at the foot of the cross that day as Jesus breathed his last breath confessed, surely, this is the Son of God.
  + Jesus said here, that the Father has not left him alone, because he always pleases the Father. Yet, from the Cross he cried out “My God My God Why have you forsaken me?”
  + Its because he was trading places, with the adulteress…and with all of us. He was being left alone by the Father with whom he had always had WITHNESS…so that we, who never did what please the Father would never be left alone.
  + **He was moving us out of the House of Despair. And into his Father’s house.**
* **LORDS SUPPER**