

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

Date: March 19, 2023

Title: "Reasons for Rejection"

Text: John 8:12-59

Evangelist Dwight L. Moody, by his own admission, made a mistake on the 8th of October 1871—a mistake he determined never to repeat.

He had been preaching in the city of Chicago. That particular night drew his largest audience yet. His message was, "What will you do then with Jesus who is called the Christ?"

By the end of the service, he was tired. He concluded his message with a presentation of the Gospel and a concluding statement: "Now I give you a week to think that over. And when we come together again, you will have opportunity to respond."

A soloist began to sing. But before the final note, the music was drowned out by clanging bells and wailing sirens screaming through the streets. The great Chicago Fire was blazing. In the pale, grayish aftermath, 100's were dead, and over a hundred thousand were homeless.

Without a doubt, some who heard Moody's message had died in the fire. He reflected remorsefully that he would have given his right arm before he would ever give an audience another week to think over the message of the Gospel.

Friend, if you were a victim of a fire like that, would you know with certainty whether you would spend eternity with Christ in heaven? Not **hope** or **wish** or **pray** that you would go there—but know?

BACKGROUND and SETTING

1. The Background:

The Jewish Feast of Tabernacles; an annual Fall festival commemorating God's protection & provision of Israel during their 40 years in the wilderness.

2. The Setting:

The Temple treasury, where 13 trumpet-shaped receptacles sat for contributions (8:20). Each receptacle was small at the top & bell-shaped at the bottom.

JESUS' _____.

In verses 12-59 we witness a verbal sword fight between Jesus & the Pharisees in which Jesus made seven claims about Himself.

Jesus claimed . . .

1. . . . to be the _____ of the world (8:12)
2. . . . a _____ origin (8:21-23)
3. . . . to be the _____ of his people (8:24, 28)
4. . . . to be the _____ which sets men _____ (8:31-32)
5. . . . for Himself a _____ character (8:37)
6. . . . the power to bestow _____ life (8:51)
7. . . . an _____ existence (8:58)

JESUS' _____.

Even a casual reading of John 8:12ff. will uncover a progressive attitude of hostility against the Lord Jesus. There are five specific reasons why the Pharisees rejected the Savior and His words.

1. Lack of _____ (vss. 14, 19)
2. Lack of _____ (vss. 15, 23)
3. Lack of _____ (vss. 37, 43).
4. Lack of _____ (vss. 44-45)
5. Lack of _____ (vss. 52-53).

FINAL APPLICATION

We may either cast stones at Jesus, like the Pharisees, or throw ourselves at His feet, accepting Him as our Lord and Savior.

- 1) Challenge #1: _____ Jesus today to _____ you!
- 2) Challenge #2: Pay _____ tomorrow (Phil. 2:9-11).