

## **John 8:12-59**

### **Introduction**

This section continues Jesus' teaching at the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem begun in chapter 7, and follows on from 7:52. [The earliest and most reliable NT manuscripts don't include 7:53-8:11 in John's account, which is why we are not studying it here.]

### **Verses 12-20**

At the Feast of Tabernacles, the people of Israel remembered, amongst other things, God leading them through the wilderness by the pillar of cloud and fire. Try and think about Jesus' promise of v12 here in that context. What does he offer, and to whom?

How willing would you say the Pharisees are to accept his offer? Why is that?

### **Verses 21-30**

Jesus gives a serious warning about unbelief here. Why don't the Jewish leaders believe and what will be the consequences of that for them, v21, v23, v28?

### **Verses 31-59**

The consequences of unbelief are serious, but what does real belief involve, v31-32?

What is the initial response of his hearers to this, v33? Why do you think they find Jesus' promise hard to accept?

How does Jesus' diagnosis of their condition contrast with their self-assessment? Think particularly about what each says about family and freedom.

### **Thinking it through**

Consider the promises of Jesus in this section. How would you put them in your own words? (Think especially about v12 and v31-32.)

What makes belief in Jesus so costly?

What makes it so precious?