

RECOGNIZING JESUS

JOHN 8:13-47

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: Because the Pharisees were so infatuated with their religion and rule keeping, they closed their hearts to God and did not recognize Jesus. Idolatry occurs when something displaces the rightful place of God in our hearts.

NOT BY HUMAN STANDARDS—God gives sensitivity to every person, but the hardness of heart and the idolatry of ritualistic religion blinds the witness of God and the saving grace of Jesus Christ. (**John 8:13-19, fn 8:13-18, fn 8:13, 14, Romans 1:18-20, fn 1:18, Romans 10:18-20, fn 10:18-20, Colossians 2:20-23, fn 2:20-23**) *What prevented the Pharisees from knowing God and not recognizing Jesus?*

TO KNOW MY GREATEST NEED—“Man’s greatest need, it has been well said, is to know what is his greatest need.” R.V.G. Tasker, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries: John, p. 118. Before my relationship with Christ, my greatest need was to be free from my slavish sin. Jesus went to the cross and took the punishment for my sin and gave me His power over sin. Now my greatest need is to enjoy the fellowship of Jesus. (**John 8:24-30, fn 8:24, John 8:31-42, fn 8:32, fn 8:34, 35, Romans 6:1-6, fn 6:6-7, Psalm 90:14, fn 90:14-15**) *Why did the Pharisees miss knowing their greatest need? How could Jesus help you to know your greatest need?*

BY BELIEVING—Jesus commands me to believe. If I believe Him, I belong to Him. If I belong to Jesus, His Holy Spirit enables me to hear as God speaks to me. As I read, meditate on, and believe His Word, He enables me to understand and enjoy fellowship with Him. (**John 8:43-47, fn 8:43, I John 3:23, 24, fn 3:23-24, I Corinthians 2:10-16, fn 2:15, 16, Hebrews 4:12, fn 4:12, Romans 10:17, fn 10:18-20**) *How do you hear or recognize what Jesus is saying to you?*

Are you taking time to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit with the Living Word teaching you and giving you His joy, His love, and His peace?