**“I AM From Above”**

**Going deeper in John 8:21-30**

**INTRODUCTION –** During the Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus has stirred up hope but also controversary and unrest by declaring “I AM the Light of the world. As he continues his teaching, Jesus adds to the mix of responses with his words, “I AM from above.”

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.*

 **21** 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.” **22**This made the Jews ask, “Will he kill himself? Is that why he says, ‘Where I go, you cannot come’?” **23**But he continued, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. **24**I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins.”

**25**“Who are you?” they asked. “Just what I have been telling you from the beginning,” Jesus replied. **26**“I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is trustworthy, and what I have heard from him I tell the world.”

**27**They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father. **28**So Jesus said, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. **29**The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him**. 30**Even as he spoke, many put their faith in him.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you*

1. What is at stake in this entire discussion? Why does everything hinge on who Jesus really is and who sent him?

2. What is significant about Jesus’ claim; “I AM from above”?

3. What does Jesus mean by each phrase in verse 28? How will this show people that he is the Christ?

4. What is the significance of verse 30 in light of the confusion and misunderstandings by those hearing Jesus teach?

5. Who do you say Jesus is?

6. How do people you know misunderstand Jesus? How can you be a light for them?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Give thanks that the Lord Jesus bridges the gap between the “above” and the “below”.

\*Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you into clearing up any misunderstandings you may have about who Jesus truly is.

\* Pray for those who do not yet believe and for how God might use you to guide the way to Christ.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

Perhaps you are listening to all this teaching from Jesus and taking it in thoughtfully. Would you, as you study the I AM statements of Jesus in the Book of John, believe in him? Perhaps you have friends or family who find it hard to accept that Jesus is God. Would you take fresh courage to speak to them, as well as nurturing joy in your own faith, from the authoritative and persuasive way in which Jesus points to the truth of his own claim and the saving power of his person, in this section of John?