

# The DAILY JESUS NEWS #152

## Stage VI. Jesus' Later Judean Ministry B. Jesus' Ministry at the Feast of Tabernacles

### ii. Jesus Warns About Dying in Sin John 8.21-24

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 Therefore, I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I AM he, you will certainly die in your sins."*

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = <sup>MT</sup>, Mark = <sup>M</sup>, Luke = <sup>L</sup>, John = <sup>J</sup>, Acts = <sup>A</sup>. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

CONTEXT DIGEST	
Location	The Temple Courts in Jerusalem
Timeline	September (Month 31)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VI: Jesus' Later Judean Ministry
	B. Jesus' Ministry at the Feast of Tabernacles
	3. Jesus' 2 <sup>nd</sup> Teaching in the Temple: "I AM the Light of the World"
Title	ii. Jesus Warns About Dying in Sin

#### COMMENT:

Jesus' dialogue with the Jewish leaders continued in the Temple. Today's reading contains one of the most serious warnings of Jesus' ministry. It was given specifically to those leaders, but it applies to everyone in the world. **"I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I AM he, you will certainly die in your sins."** JN 8.24

Jesus had just declared: "I AM the Light of the World" regarding eternal life. Jesus is the source, giver, and sustainer of eternal life to who believe in him. This means that apart from Jesus there is no possibility of eternal life. To reject him is to reject the eternal life that exists in the Trinity alone.

**"Dying in your sins"** referred to dying without having made the decision to believe in Jesus as our Divine Savior and Lord. Jesus used the term "I AM" in verse 24 to underscore his identity as the God-man. Unlike the rest of us, who are "from below," of merely human DNA, Jesus was "from above," of Divine origin and Being. He lives eternally as God; he is the great "I AM," or YHWH.

When a person believes in Jesus as "I AM," they also believe that he is **"the Lamb of God, who permanently removes the sins of the world,"** including all of their own sins. Such a person lives in this world, and dies too, in a state of forgiveness. On the other hand, a person who does not believe in Jesus is personally liable for every sin

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they have committed, and departs this world to go into the presence of God in a state of personal responsibility for every unforgiven sin of their life. They "die in their sins."

Since "the wages of sin is death," a person who "dies in their sins" is certain to receive the eternal death penalty of life in hell as the just consequence of their sins against God. The phrase "die in your sins" is a description of eternal damnation. It is the most horrible thing that a person can possibly experience.

Jesus lovingly warned the Jewish leaders who did not believe in him of the consequence of their choice. He likewise warns all people in the world through these words to seriously consider the consequences of rejecting him. Jesus came as the expression of his Father's love for every person who is "still in their sins," so that that everyone who chooses to believe in him "may not perish eternally in hell, but have eternal life" instead.

The decision to reject Jesus is the choice to die, and go into the presence of God as a guilty sinner, with all the sins of our life piled up upon us, awaiting the penalty of eternity in hell. The choice not to believe in Jesus is to "die in our sins."

Love warns those who are in dire danger. It does everything it can to save them from that danger. That is what Jesus has done for every person. Today's reading is incredibly important for that reason.

### APPLICATION:

*If you are "still in your sins," what keeps you from believing in Jesus and receiving eternal forgiveness, right now? Is it worth it to wait?*

*If you have received the free gift of forgiveness of your sins, one appropriate response is to do everything in your power to share Jesus' warning in today's reading with people who do not know about it.*

*Are you doing that? Is there more you can do? When will you do it?*