

Jesus is the Light of the World

John 1:6-15 ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

❖ Introduction

➤ Have You Ever Been Wrong?

- Has there ever been a time in your life where you realized...
 - I have been looking at this the wrong way the whole time
 - This has happened to me so many times...
- **Sometimes it was something small...**
 - Like last year, I was convinced there was no way
 - the Golden State Warriors could be beaten by Lebron James and the Cavs
 - And I was adamant about it with some of my best friends... Well... I was wrong...
- **Other times, it was something bigger**
 - My catalytic Converter was messed up in my vehicle...
 - I thought it was one... I spend two days taking my vehicle apart...
 - My brother tried to save me some time... But I wouldn't listen...
- **Another time it was even bigger...**
 - During the summer before my 8th grade year of high school...
 - I thought everything was fine between me and God...
 - If you asked me if I believed in Jesus I would say yes...
 - But, I had no idea, I did not know Him...
- **Finally a man confronted me about my relationship with God...**
 - And I realized... All this time I thought I would be going to heaven
 - I thought I knew God... but in reality, I only knew about Him...
 - I had never turned away from sin and received Him...
- **From The moment God opened my eyes to who He was...**
 - I was able to see things so much differently...
 - I was in fact a completely different person...

➤ Jesus came for this very reason...

- To open the eyes of mankind... that they may see the Truth...
- In the book of Isaiah... and ancient book within the Bible...
- **It was written over 700 years before Jesus was born... this was written**
 - **Isaiah 9:2** ² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined..... ⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
 - This was written about Jesus

➤ Maybe you are sitting here today... and you think you have everything figured out

- You have this view of the world and God and life and yourself...
- But... maybe, like at other times in your life...
- You are mistaken... and your actually blinded to the truth
- So... I am asking today... that you at least be open to that possibility

- **In the beginning of His ministry Jesus went to Church and He did this:**
 - Luke 4:16-21 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. ¹⁷ And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, ¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” ²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”
 - **Amazing right?**
 - This man... He came into a synagogue and said something that would challenge
 - ◆ What men and women believed... from 8 to 80 Jesus would challenge their beliefs
- **Now... before we get into the text... I want you to know... these verses are for all people...**
 - They are for Christians, Non-Christians, Those who think they are... the confused...
 - So... let God’s Word work on you

❖ 1) God Sent a Witness of the Light

- ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.
- **God Provides Mankind with Witnesses about Him...**
 - We just have to be wise enough and humble enough to listen
- **Right before Jesus came... this was John the Baptist...**
 - And He was sent from God to start laying a foundation for Jesus
 - It was His job to start proclaiming the coming of Jesus
 - And we see... He was not the light... but came to tell about the light
 - He preached repentance to the people... and it says here in the text why...
- **That All Might Believe through Him –**
 - **All** - All people...
 - **Might** – might is not a word there in the greek text... rather it is in the form of the verb
 - **Pisteo** – to believe... in the active voice...
 - Meaning the All are doing the action of believing...
 - Subjunctive Mood – indicating that it is a possibility...
 - ◆ The believing might happen... or that believing is a possibility for the Subject... All
- **Theological Truth that Jesus came here for all people,**
 - 2 Peter 3:9 ...is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

❖ 2) God Sent the True Light

- **The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**
- **Before we dig into this particular verse... let’s ask a question... Why do we need light?**
 - Why... as the text says... do we need enlightening?
 - Would we not all assume... it is because there is darkness... and people covered in darkness...?
- **Illustration: Let me illustrate our problem with some Philosophy...**
 - Anyone ever hear of Plato? If not... He is one of history’s most famous Philosophers...
 - A philosopher is a person that thinks... and then he writes down what he thinks...
 - They are not always right... but they are always thinking...

- **He wrote an Allegory called the Allegory of the Cave...**
- **And in this cave there were men chained facing a wall... Their neck and arms were chained**
 - So that they could not turn and look anyway except forward
 - And they had been this was their whole life
- **Now... remember... this is an allegory... not a true story...**
 - He is using this allegory to illustrate how many people do not see things as they are..
- **So... they are chained in this cave facing a wall...**
 - And behind them is a bridge... and on this bridge... people walk across...
 - They walk together or by themselves... they carry things, they talk...
- **And behind and above the bridge is a big fire...**
 - And this fire shines a light on the people walking across the bridge and the prisoners
 - But... all the prisoners can see are their shadows and the shadows of the people walking
- **So... their reality is shadows...**
 - And they begin to name the shadows and what the people are carrying...
 - They have no clue there is a bridge behind them, or a fire... because all they see
 - Is the wall in front of them with shadows... and the voices they hear... echo in the cave
 - And it seems to be coming from the shadows
- **They also begin to give rank to certain shadows that come along...**
 - They may name an object book or pot
 - But their reality of these things is simply a shadow in a wall...
 - And they become very good at noticing the difference in each person's shadow...
- **Finally, one of the prisoners is set free...**
 - And He begins to see the people as they are... and he sees the fire...
 - And he realizes how blind he had been...
 - He eventually wonders out of the cave and sees the sun and more things...
 - And when he comes back to tell his fellow prisoners...
 - Guess what? They think he is mad... they think he is the one that is blind
- **Now... Plato used this allegory to explain a person without philosophy...**
 - But... I think it illustrates mankind's blindness apart from Jesus Christ
 - Man is blind... and can not see truth...
- Look back at the text...
 - **⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**
- **Enlightens – Shines light..**
 - Jesus is the True Light... The True light is actively shining light to everyone
- **Enlightens is in the Indicative mood...**
 - As opposed to the Subjunctive which meant it is possible...
 - Indicative mood means it is real... this is really happening... it is a fact
- **Whereas – believing on Jesus, by the people of the world is a possibility for all of them**
 - Jesus shining His light is Actually Happening even now...
- **Which enlightens is in the present tense...**
 - It was present at the time John was writing about
 - And it is even now present... The Light from Jesus is Transcendent throughout time.
- **He calls it the “True light”**
 - **Makes a point of its Truthfulness**
- **Here is the Question we have to ask... How is it light? Or what are we in the dark about?**
 - Man has been in the dark about who God is... what sin is... and who they themselves are
 - And here... Jesus comes along to shed light on this...
- **1) Man has had trouble seeing their sin as terrible in the eyes of God...**

- Jesus comes along and opens our eyes to the horrors of sin...
 - Not, just that it is terrible in the eyes of God...
 - But I think He also shows us that it destroys our own soul...
 - We are like the little child playing with the venomous snake... we have no idea the danger
 - **Romans 3:23 The wages of sin is death**
 - **2) Man has had trouble knowing who their God is... And His love for them**
 - Jesus comes along and shows us God... and He shows us God's love...
 - **Colossians 1:19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,**
 - Jesus came and showed us God and the love of God...
 - **3) Man has had trouble knowing who they are**
 - Jesus comes along and reminds us that we have been created in the image of God...
 - And that we are to serve him with everything we have
 - We have been created to bear the image of God...
- ❖ **3) God's Light Was Rejected by the World**
- **He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.**
 - **Briefly... I just want you to see... that He is speaking of the many people of this world...**
 - And although they are made by God and in His image...
 - They reject this truth... they reject Jesus as Savior, as God...
 - **Paul... who himself was once blinded physically and spiritually... writes this:**
 - **2 Corinthians 4:4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.**
 - **Are you blind?**
- ❖ **4) God's Light Was Rejected by His Own People**
- **He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.**
 - **Who is "his own people"?**
 - Well... that was the nation of Israel at that time...
 - They had been given the laws of God... delivered out of slavery in Egypt
 - God had established a nation out of slaves
 - **But, along the way... they had lost their way...**
 - They took God's Word and began to twist it to fit their own beliefs...
 - It was so bad, that even though they had the law of God before their eyes...
 - They were blind to it... they could not see it so they could see God
 - **Jesus even told them...**
 - **John 5:39-40 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.**
 - **Application:**
 - **Could it be that... you think you are in right standing with God...**
 - But in reality you are still living for yourself... You have never given yourself over to God
 - Maybe you grew up in church... maybe you have even read the Bible...
 - But, maybe, just maybe... you are not right with God...
 - **There was a man just like this...**
 - His name was Saul... you can read about him in the book of Acts...
 - He hated the Jesus movement...
 - He stood by and watched as people stoned a man named Stephen to death...
 - Stephen was just telling people about Jesus... and they killed him because of it
 - Paul would hunt down anyone that followed Jesus...

- He hated Jesus and the people that followed Him...
- All the while... He was reading his bible day and night... He thought he was on God's side
- **Until one day He had an encounter with Jesus...**
 - And in a moment... the light shined in the heart of this man Paul...
 - And He could see for the first time... Interestingly... his physical eyes were actually blinded
 - But He could see like he had never seen before...

➤ **Application: Do you See?**

❖ **5) God's Light Was Received by Some**

- ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

➤ **Now the question: Who is allowed to be the children of God?**

➤ **All who Received Him,**

- **Received Him** – take hold of... to seize... and Receive (**Active verb**)
- **Let me give you an Analogy:**
 - **My first thought was Christmas morning and my kids get something they really wanted...**
 - ◆ They take that gift... and they tear into it
 - ◆ and often I can not get them to open other gifts because of this one

- **When one Receives Christ, they seize hold of Him...**

- The Children of God do not receive Christ halfheartedly...
- They receive Him and lay hold of Him
- As the only way into heaven... As the only way to have their sins forgiven...
- As the only one to bring them peace with God...

- **Please do not read this verse halphazardly...**

- They **RECEIVE** Him!

➤ **Who Believed in His name**

- Believe here in the text, is also an active verb...
- **Believe** – *to believe and have confidence in something...*
 - *To entrust oneself to something*
- **John uses this word believe as a verb over 100 times in the gospel of John...**
 - The noun form is the word "Faith" and he only uses it once...
- **God is trying to tell us something...**
 - Believing is something we do... not just once... but continually

➤ **Right or Authority to become children of God**

- *Word means : authority or power to be or to do*
- Why do we have this right?... Because we received Jesus

❖ **6) God's Light is Shining for You**

- ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

➤ **I want to end with one more thing... look at this verse...**

➤ **It shows us that God is the primary mover in our salvation**

- Yes... we must respond... but it is not dependent on where you were born...
- Or the people you were born to... nor is it of your own works

➤ **Rather... God is the one who sent Jesus to die and be raised to life for our sin**

- God sent a witness AND is offering the free gift of salvation to you today

➤ **Will you receive it?**

- John 8:12 ¹² Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."