

Jesus is the Light of the World

John 8:12-20 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.” ¹³ So the Pharisees said to him, “You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true.” ¹⁴ Jesus answered, “Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. ¹⁵ You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. ¹⁶ Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. ¹⁷ In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true. ¹⁸ I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me.” ¹⁹ They said to him therefore, “Where is your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.” ²⁰ These words he spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple; but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

❖ Introduction

➤ One tough message...

- You would think it would be easy to understand Jesus as light...
 - But I see now why Einstein spent so much time studying it...
 - It is fascinating... and endless...
 - Like my sermons... sometimes...

➤ Recap

➤ John 1

- John Presents Jesus from the very beginning as God
 - John 1:4-5 ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
- John the Baptist’s Testimony
- Lamb of God
- Calling of the Apostles

➤ John 2 – Wedding at Canaan and Cleanses the Temple

➤ John 3 – Tells Nicodemus You Must Be Born Again... Shares of God’s love for the World

➤ John 4 – The Adulterous Samaritan Woman at the Well

➤ John 5 – The Lame man at the pool on the Sabbath – Authority as God, the Son of God

➤ John 6 – The Feeding of the 5k men – Bread of Life

➤ John 7 – Jesus attending the Feast of the Tabernacle or Booths

- On the last day of the feast...
- When they were likely doing a ritual to remember God providing water for Israel in the desert
- Jesus stands up and says:
 - John 7:37-38 ³⁷ On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ ”

➤ The Woman Caught in Adultery

➤ NOW: We are continuing on in Ch. 8

- This is Right After the Feast of the Tabernacle or Booths... so that is the setting

❖ Setting

➤ Feast of Tabernacles... A Commemoration.... A festival of Remembrance

- We do the Same thing with the 4th of July...
 - We Remember the day of our Freedom...
 - We remember it with Fireworks that are a reminder of the war we fought

➤ Feast of Tabernacles... (So important)

- Another Reason why it is important to read the O.T.....
- They were remembering their 40 yrs wandering in the wilderness...
- They were commemorating God's provision for them and watching over them...
- They remembered the water He gave them even from a rock...
- **Remembered God leading them by the Pillar of Cloud and Fire**
 - Exodus 13:21-22 ²¹ And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. ²² The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.
 - Emphasized God being a light to the children of Israel in the wilderness...
- **Where are they?**
 - In the Temple treasury....
 - Vs 20 These words he spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple;
 - The Treasury was located in what was known as the Court of the Women...
 - And it was in the court of the women that they held the ceremony remembering the light
 - The light that led them
- **They would light these Candelabra**
 - Just a big thing that could hold a lot of candles... or some other way of making light
 - And there would be a huge amount of light...
- So... Jesus is here... and it is here, right after they had this ceremony that Jesus comes in and says...

❖ I am the Light of the World

- "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

❖ What is Jesus Talking About in Regards to His Being the Light of the World?

- Using a physical reference that we can see and know and understand
- To describe a Spiritual Reality that is not as easy for us to understand.
- This is not just a metaphor... because he really is Light....
- But let's look at a clip of the effects of the sun on the earth as it rises...

VIDEO

- It brings great light to the earth right?
- You begin to see things clearly...

❖ Why is understanding Jesus as the Light of the World so important?

- Because there may be and most likely are some in this room that are living in spiritual darkness
- And it is so Dangerous, because you do not even know it...
- You are more than likely oblivious to the fact...
- John teaches that hatred for our brother is like this...
 - 1 John 2:11 ¹¹ But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.
 - Hatred for our brother is not the only kind of darkness....
 - It is just important to note the condition of the one in darkness...
 - "does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes"

❖ We don't want that do we?

- So it is important to understand
 - So we should pray for God to help us with understanding...

❖ Our Physical Understanding of Light and Darkness

- **Darkness is the Absence of Light**
 - Light is not the absence of darkness
 - Darkness can not come into where it is light and darken the room...
 - Rather the light has to be lessened
- **Dark Places**
 - Night time
 - When the sun is blocked by the other side of the earth...
 - And let's say there are no stars out
 - And the moon is unseen (maybe blocked by the earth, or a cloudy night)
 - That is a dark time...
 - And if you wanted to see where you were going you couldn't because it is so dark...
 - Example:
 - ◆ I have been hunting and often times I know the woods where I hunt so well I would not bring a flashlight...
 - ◆ I would just use the little light I got from the moon....
 - ◆ But when the moon was giving no light, it made familiar territory completely unfamiliar...
 - **Rooms**
 - Rooms that are walled in with no window and no light on can be extremely dark
 - You are unable to see anything that is in the room...
 - You could place ten objects in the room and be unable to see any...
 - You could feel them, and get an idea of shape and size...
 - But to see them and their detail would be impossible in the darkness...
- **What does light do?**
 - It illuminates – Helps us to see what we could not previously see
 - Oh the Beauty we would otherwise never know...
 - The detail of plants and rocks
 - The light from stained glass
 - The beauty of other human beings...
 - We can not even watch tv without the existence of light...
 - It gives warmth
 - It causes growth
 - Without light we would have dead lifeless creation
 - **Without Light there would be death**

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.”**

❖ **Jesus is the Light of the World**

- Right after this ceremony where they remember the light of God in the desert...
 - Jesus comes in and says... That He is the Light...
- **An Outrageous Statement.... Completely Outrageous... Unless it is true...**
 - If Anyone else were to say this... they would be laughed out of the room...
 - Why was it so outrageous...?
- **1) Claiming to be the Messiah** (these were verses the Jewish leaders knew spoke of Messiah)
 - **Isaiah 49:6⁶ I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”**
 - **Isaiah 42:5-7⁵ Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to**

those who walk in it: ⁶“I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, **a light for the nations,** ⁷**to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.**

- A Light for the nations...

- Many even said Messiah meant Light...

➤ 2) Claiming to be God...

- The obvious: The light in the Wilderness.... He is claiming to be this light....

- Ex. 13:21 And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light

- **The Creator of Light**

- Gen 1.3 God said, Let there be light, and there was light

- **He is Light**

- Daniel 2:22 ²²..... he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him.

- 1 Tim 6.16 ... he dwells in unapproachable light

➤ They Were outraged by this....

- So they begin to object to what He is saying...

❖ A Brief Rundown of the Verses....

- Lets look at these verses to see the response that Jesus gets...

➤ 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.”

➤ ¹³ So the Pharisees said to him, “You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true.”

- John 5 Argument....

- Jesus says If He bears witness alone it is not true..

- Meaning one person’s testimony is not enough... in the eyes of their law

➤ ¹⁴ Jesus answered, “Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going.

- But He says He is true... because of where He is from, and where He is going

➤ ¹⁵ You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one.

- They do not see things clearly...

➤ ¹⁶ Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me.

➤ ¹⁷ In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true.

➤ ¹⁸ I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me.”

- He does have two witnesses... Himself and the Father...

➤ ¹⁹ They said to him therefore, “Where is your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.”

- He tells them... they do not even know the God they claim to serve is...

❖ Why We Need His Light

➤ There is a great and deep darkness

- 2 Corinthians 4:4-6 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.

- Meditate on this...

- Blinded the minds...

- Keeps them from seeing the light of the gospel

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.”

❖ The Light of the World

- “I am the light of the world.”
 - We have look at what He was saying here... what he meant by this...
 - Then he says...
- Whoever follows me
 - Follows - akoloutheo
 - 1 – A soldier who follows his captian
 - 2 – A slave listens to his master
 - 3 – A person who follows wise counsel
 - 4 – Someone who obey law, follows the rules
 - 5 – A student that follows his teachers teachings
- will not walk in darkness,
 - No longer will we not know the truth
 - No longer will be blind to what is true
 - We will know when we are wrong
 - We will want to do what is right...
 - We will see things all the more clearly
 - Because...
- but will have the light of life.”
 - Have the light of life...
 - WOW
 - We will have the light of life.... With in us...
 - In the same way that the water of life will be within us...
 - John 4:14 ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”
 - This light is within us.....
 - Which leads me to the results of it...

❖ The Results of Jesus Being the Light of the World

- Isaiah 42:7⁷ to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.
- Acts 26:18¹⁸ to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’
- 2 Cor. 4:4-6⁶ “For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
- Reveals Truth (Opens the eyes of the blind)
- Brings Freedom (Prisoners out from the dungeon)
- Causes Growth
- We Reflect it....
 - We have this light within us....
 - And now we are little lights...
 - And we are to reflect the light of God on those around us...

- Remember: Daniel 12:3³ And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

❖ Jesus has come as the Light

- John 1:4-5⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

❖ The Light Can Be Repulsive

- Like waking up in the Morning to a bright Light
- Like Cockroaches when you turn on the light...

❖ What were the Characteristics of those still walking in darkness...

- They are worldly
- **1) They did not believe what He had to say**
 - ¹³ So the Pharisees said to him, "You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true."
- **2) They Judged Outwardly**
 - ¹⁵ You judge according to the flesh
- **3) They did not know God the Father**
 - "You know neither me nor my Father.
- **4) They do not understand who Jesus is**
 - John 8:24²⁴ I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins."
- **5) They do not know the truth**
 - John 8:32³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
- **6) They do not believe in His Eternal existence as God**
 - John 8:58-59⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am."⁵⁹ So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.
- **Jesus Said earlier in this gospel**
 - John 3:19-20¹⁹ And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.

❖ What were the Characteristics of those walking in the light of Jesus

- They Believe....
- They Let the light shine on the darkness of their soul...
- They are not afraid for their sin to be revealed..

❖ Jesus is:

- Heb 1.3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature