

PLEASANT VIEW PROCLAIMER

July 10, 2022

I AM the Light of the World (John 8:12-20 / 9:1-7)

We continue our series focused on the seven great "I AM" statements recorded in the gospel of John. In this lesson we will be looking at "I AM the light of the world" from John 8:12-20 (repeated in 9:1-7). Jesus is addressing a crowd in the treasury of the temple (8:20), and is ultimately challenged by the Pharisees. In looking at this text, let's consider a few questions:

Why Does Jesus Use the Metaphor of Light? - While not as clear as the use of "bread" in chapter 6, we know this "I AM" statement likely came in the morning (8:2) after the last day (7:37) of the Feast of Booths (7:2). On the first day of the Feast of Booths, three 75' tall candlesticks (torches) were erected in The Court of the Women where the treasury was located (the same treasury where Jesus noted the widow who gave a sacrificial gift - **Mark 12:41-42**). The torches would have been extinguished at the end of the feast, and we know that Jesus came back to the temple on that morning (8:2), and He was in the treasury (8:20). Also, Jesus frequently described Himself as "light" during His ministry.

What is Jesus Saying About Himself? - In addition to tying Himself back to the "I AM" of **Exodus 3:14** as we discussed last week, Jesus is professing to be the genuine light by which His followers can learn the truth and avoid the darkness (**John 1:1-5**).

What is darkness? Without a savior, mankind is in darkness because of their sin, which means separation from God and eternal spiritual death. This state of utter hopelessness is described by Paul in **Romans 3:9-20** and **Ephesians 2:1-3**. Jesus also described darkness in John 12:35 when He said that, "The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going..."

With that in mind, what does it mean that Jesus is "the light?" What is He saying about Himself? Here, light is truth, as recorded by the Psalmist in **119:105** - *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

Jesus is the single source of truth...Consider the definite article "**the**" in verse 12 (there is only one). Just like physical light can show us the way out of physical darkness, truth can show us the way out of spiritual darkness through



"The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork."

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The stone rolled away
From an empty grave!
He died and arose
Our souls to save!
Rejoice, for in Him
In heavenly places we're
seated!
Sin, Hell and the grave
defeated!
The Lord Jesus reigns!
In Him eternal life is
gained!
It's a happy resurrection
day in Him every day!
Hallelujah to the Truth,
Life, and Way!

knowledge of God's plan as revealed by His Son. This truth leads us to salvation (life) and drives away the darkness (death).. Paul told Timothy in **2 Timothy 3:15** that the sacred writings "...are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."

Why is Walking in the Light Essential? - In **1 John 1:5**, John says that "*God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.*" The **ONLY** way to have fellowship with God is to allow the truth to lead us out of the darkness. Otherwise, we will forever be separated from God by our sin. Just like with the "bread of life" in Chapter 6, we have a choice to either stay in the darkness or allow the Son to lead us into the light. This again is a life-or-death decision.

What is the Argument of the Pharisees? - They are making a legal argument (**13**) in the sense of "true" as evidence for trial. One who testifies about himself needs supporting witnesses to validate his testimony (**Dt 17:6; 19:15**). Jesus admitted the same (**5:31**) if He was the only one bearing witness. Just as in **5:31-47**, Jesus ultimately invokes the testimony of God the Father to validate His claims (**16-18**), but first He disputes the Pharisees' right to charge Him with error in the first place. He says that no earthly witness can testify on His behalf because of His divine origin (**14; 3:13; 5:19-24**).

Do We Know the Father and the Son? - The Pharisees ask, "Where is your Father" (**19**), which is a typical example of misunderstanding in John's gospel (**2:21; 3:4; 4:11; 6:52; 7:35**). They were especially proud of their knowledge of Scripture, but Jesus accuses them of missing the point. If they had understood it, they would know God and recognize Him. We must take care to make sure we don't fall into the same trap. It's possible to know a lot of scripture, and think we are following the rules, and not have a genuine relationship with the Father and the Son.

PRAYER LIST

- **Rebecca Brown's** great-granddaughter passed away
- **Ann Reed** has covid
- **Carolyn Pennington**, Tammy's aunt, has breast cancer
- **Kim Waller** had a mini-stroke
- **Donna Ross Head** has cancer
- **Tim & Diane Singleton** are getting over covid, while Diane recovers from knee surgery
- **Jean Cherry**, Mike's aunt, had her gall bladder removed and is recovering.
- **Faye Waller** is at NHC rehab after elbow surgery
- **Doug Demonbreun** has been suffering from cellulitis
- **Patricia Stroud** has been dealing with shingles
- Continue to pray for: families in **Uvalde, Texas** and those in **Ukraine; Kristine Garrett, Delores Coleman**, the **Krantz** family, **John Hayes, Nick Phifer, Gaynell Walker, Rosemary Douglas, Isabel Johnson**, and **Jim Sims**

SERVING TODAY (July 10, 2022)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Read: J. Gupton
Prayer: C. Baker

WORSHIP

Read: J. Baker
Wait On Table: D. Billingsley
Serve: D. Demonbreun, J. Walker
Prayer: L. Gregory