



I AM THE
LIGHT OF
THE WORLD

John 8:12-30

Week 2

Isaiah 9:2, Psalm 27:1, Matthew 5:14

Day 1 - Monday

John 8:12-59, Psalm 27:1

A Misunderstood Man

It's important to note the context surrounding the moment Jesus made this "I am the light of the world" statement. The Jewish people were celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles, a celebration to remember God's care of their people during the years they wandered in the wilderness. During the evenings of the festival, the priests would light four large candelabras, and the glow from the light could be seen across the city. These lamps served as reminders of the pillar of fire God used to lead Israel through the wilderness and pointed toward the promise of the Messiah to come. During this celebration of light, they would sing and dance joyously, worshipping their God who had been faithful. It was on the last night of the festival when the lamps were unlit that Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."

Craig Blomberg says in his book *Jesus and the Gospels*,

"On the last night, the main candelabrum was deliberately left unlit as a reminder that Israel had not yet experienced full salvation. Jesus is now declaring himself to be the one who can provide that salvation. Jesus's claim is immediately challenged by the religious leaders (v. 13). For corroborating witness, he appeals again to his Father and to his coming departure (at his crucifixion and return to heaven) in verses 14-29. Many in his audience at first apparently believe in him, but, as the subsequent dialogue demonstrates (vv. 31-59), some have altogether misunderstood him. True faith will continue to hold fast to Jesus's teaching and thereby provide spiritual liberation. Particularly from the religious leaders among Jesus's listeners, however, some believe that their ancestral credentials as God's chosen people have already guaranteed that (v. 33), so Jesus and his audience debate who the true spiritual descendants of Abraham really are and who are, in fact, "children of the devil". When other approaches fail, the authorities resort to name-calling and abuse (v. 48). Tensions heighten as Jesus further defends his claims in language that makes him out to be, first, greater than Abraham; second, preexisting from before the time of Abraham; and, finally, worthy of the very divine name of Exod 3:14—"I AM" (vv. 49-58). The authorities are so outraged that they initiate mob violence and attempt to stone Jesus."

While celebrating the past and looking forward to the future, God's people were missing the true light, the one they were celebrating was presently in their midst. Jesus was essentially saying to the people, "I am right here with you in the flesh, and yet you do not recognize my presence."



Reflection

Are there times when you are celebrating the past or looking to the future and miss what Jesus is doing right now in your present? Spend some time today reflecting on how you can be more aware of God's presence in your days.

Day 2 - Tuesday

John 8:12-51, John 3:16-21, John 12:35-36, Colossians 1:10-14

People Loved Darkness More Than The Light

Light in Scripture often represents truth, holiness, and God's presence. By declaring Himself the Light, Jesus claims to illuminate the way to salvation and expose the darkness of sin.

Darkness is familiar. Whether we experience the literal darkness after dusk or the weight of a world darkened by evil, we have all become, as Robert Frost put it, "acquainted with the night." Darkness comes in many forms. You might be acquainted with the darkness of depression or grief. Maybe you know the darkness of persistent sin-yours or that of someone close to you. Most of us have experienced the darkness of confusion and chaos. We've all been impacted by the darkness and brokenness of this world. As the light of the world, Jesus illuminates the darkness. - Joanna Kimbrel

Warren Wiersbe describes the most dangerous darkness in our "enlightened age" as the dense spiritual darkness that blinds the minds and controls the hearts of people who have never trusted Christ or claim to know Him but don't follow Him. In John 3, we see that people often loved darkness rather than light. We each have a path to choose. A path of darkness or light. Jesus lays out the path of light in John 8: knowing the Father, believing he is the Messiah, and remaining faithful to his teachings. This light is our inheritance as children of light because he has rescued us from the darkness, but his inheritance is something we must take hold of as we turn away from the darkness and return to the path of light.



Reflection

"Dear friend, if you are afraid of light, be suspicious of yourself, for it is deceit that dreads detection."

Charles Spurgeon

"Jesus isn't trying to expose you to put shame on you. He's trying to expose the sin that has it's chains around you."

Lysa Terkeurst

Reflect today on what you need to bring into the light. If we can expose what's holding us back to the light of Jesus, we can begin to experience His forgiveness and freedom.

Day 3 - Wednesday

*John 8:12-19, 2 Corinthians 11:14, Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 119:105,
Isaiah 9:2, John 1:1-10*

Submitting to the One True Creator of Light

God is the true Creator of light from the beginning. In Genesis, He brought light to a world covered in darkness by creating the lesser lights—sun, moon, and stars—not to be worshipped but to point to Him as the true Light. Pagan nations like Egypt and Canaan worshipped these lesser lights, seeking favor from creation instead of honoring their Creator. Similarly, Satan masquerades as an angel of light, but Jesus is the only true Light. Satan is a master at using these “lesser lights” to distract us. Shiny things such as money, fame, success, comparison, status, and comfort all move our hearts away from worshipping God. We begin to worship these created things rather than submitting our lives to the Creator.

Scripture often uses light to represent God’s presence and guidance for those who submit to Him. In Exodus, God led His people through the wilderness with a pillar of light. Psalm 119 describes His word as a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Isaiah 9 foretells the coming of a great Light, fulfilled in John 1, where the arrival of the promised Light is announced.

It can be easy to become overwhelmed when we see the darkness all around us- on the news, in our homes, even in our own bodies – but the darkness cannot overcome the light! Throughout the Old Testament, God promised light that would illuminate even the darkest places. Year after year, God’s people waited. Jesus’s announcement that he is the light of the world is not merely a helpful image but the fulfillment of a promise God made from the beginning. The light has come, and the light is coming. We can walk in the light now and for all eternity when we know the light of the world. He offers life, guidance, hope, and healing - Joanna Kimbrel



Reflection

Read Isaiah 9:2 and John 8:12 again. What stands out to you about the similarities in these verses?

Reflect today on places where you have worshiped “lesser lights” rather than the Creator of light. Are there ways you have been distracted by the “angel of light” to shiny things masquerading as truth? How can you begin to bring those things back to the light of Jesus so He can lead and guide you back to full submission to the Father?

Day 4 - Thursday

*John 8:12, 2 Corinthians 4:6, Matthew 5:14-16, 1 John 1:5-7,
Ephesians 5:8-21*

Walking as Children of Light

In John 8, Jesus confronts the Pharisees, challenging their belief that their lineage, knowledge of Scripture, and religious practices made them children of light. He calls them to believe in him, emphasizing that true light comes from daily fellowship with him, guiding both words and actions. True followers of Christ reflect his light through humility and actions that glorify the Father. The same divine light that appeared in the burning bush in Exodus and that led the Israelites in the wilderness now dwells in God's people, making each believer a carrier of his light. At his ascension, Jesus entrusted his disciples to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth, emphasizing that we are his plan to share his light with the world. Paul provides guidance on walking in the light in Ephesians 5.

Lynn Cohick, in her commentary on Ephesians 5, explains it like this:

This light is truth, holiness, integrity, and love. This light is the life of Jesus Christ, who declares "I am the light of the world". The Ephesians are the light, the witness of the gospel's reconciling power to a world darkened by sin. A life of light produces rich fruit, all manner of goodness, righteousness, and truth. And a believer who is light will produce that which characterizes Christ's life of love and kindness, charity and integrity. But works of darkness, Paul warns, are unfruitful. Paul commands them not to participate in such dark works, but rather he urges them to expose such behavior. Paul explains how the believers' godly demeanor and attitude, their "light," exposes the darkness, and transforms it. Light reveals darkness as evil; in so doing, people can see evil for what it really is, and be drawn to light. Paul orders that the Ephesians see very carefully how they walk, for they must be wise. They must realize that the present age is one governed by evil, by attitudes and practices that are antithetical to God's goodness, joy, and redemption. A third pair of commands enjoins the believer not to be drunk with wine, but to be filled with the Spirit. A Spirit-filled life is characterized by such deep joy that songs, psalms, and melodies will spring forth. Paul declares boldly that a Spirit-filled person gives thanks always, and for all things. Since he has clearly acknowledged that the days are evil Paul is certainly aware that bad things happen. Are we to be thankful for the bad things? No, but a thankful heart is a faithful one. Though the days are evil and darkness threatens, we walk as ones who see wisely, who know the end of the story, and thus can be thankful.



Reflection

How can we be children of light in a dark world, walking faithfully with thankfulness and joy? Reflect today on the places God has you right now and what it would look like to live out Ephesians 5 in those places.

Day 5 - Friday

*John 8:12, Isaiah 60:19-20, Revelation 21:22-25, 22:1-5,
2 Corinthians 4:3-13*

The Eternal Everlasting Light of the World

Isaiah 60 tells of a day when we will no longer need the “lesser lights” that God created in the beginning. It says, “The Lord will be your Everlasting Light, and the days of your sorrow will be over.” The question for us as believers today is, “What are we to do until this glorious day?” 2 Corinthians 4 shows us that we are to share the good news of this everlasting light to a world still looking to the lesser lights for answers. Paul’s message here is to the collective church at Corinth. As individuals, pushing back the darkness feels hard, but together in a community, it feels more attainable. This is why being a part of a community of believers is helpful. When your light feels dim, you can gather with other light bearers. When someone else’s light is dim, you can lend them some of your light. The world needs to see that we are not scared of darkness because we have the light of God in us. As a community, we can be light bearers to a dark world.

Jesus is not visibly walking our city streets today, but His people are here to represent Him and spread the light. Millions of people profess to be followers of the Lord, so there ought to be plenty of light in this world; yet things seem to be getting darker. Jesus promises that if we follow Him, we will walk in the light, not in the darkness, and that His light will give us life. Even more, we will be lights in this dark world and help others find the true Light. More than once the record tells us that Jesus turned from the crowd in order to minister to individuals, a practice that would bother believers today who measure ministry only by numbers. How we look at other people determines how much we can help them. The disciples wanted justice; Jesus opted for mercy. Furthermore, when we follow Jesus and walk in the light, we see this world and its dangerous illusions as they really are and we will not be deceived. Did you notice how Jesus moved from the universal (“the light of the world”) to the individual (“the one following me,” see John 8:12)? That’s because He brings His light to the world through the good works of His own disciples. To obey Jesus and follow the Light of the World means to become a living light and avoid the delusions that lead to the detours toward darkness. It means to become the kind of people who can point others to the Savior so that they too might experience “the light of life.”

Warren W. Wiersbe - *Jesus in the Present Tense: The I AM Statements of Christ*



Reflection

Think of a time when someone shared the light of Jesus with you in a dim season. Remember how their care uplifted you. Ask the Lord to reveal someone who needs His light this week, and commit to reaching out to them with love and encouragement.

Day 6 - Saturday

Reflection Day

Reflection Notes and Questions

As we wrap up this week's study, reread John 8:12

Reflect on these words that Jesus spoke, "I am the Light of the the World." Reflect on what they mean about His character, His work on the cross, and how it should change how we see Him and how we live.

Reflect/journal your thoughts on this or these following prompts:

- Write down what you learned about who God is this week.
- What is something you learned this week that you want to remember? Why?
- How can you begin to posture your life to receive more from the Lord?

Day 7 - Sunday

Rest Day

Reflection Notes and Questions

Join us for worship today and prepare your heart to engage with next week's study of God and His word. Use your time today to rest, pray, and reflect on this week's readings.