

Jesus, the Light of the World
John 7-8

INTRO:

Movie or TV shows where the person enters dark house or building and starts walking around. My first thought is “turn on a light”, but nooooo. They stay in the darkness and you know something bad is going to happen.

Big Reveal in movies: Empire Strikes Back, Agatha Christie stories...

John’s gospel is full of big reveal moments for Jesus.

Last week we saw the first one – I am the bread of life

John 6 – Jesus feeds the people and they start talking about Moses and the bread from heaven and then Jesus says, “I Am the Bread of life, the true bread from Heaven” – drop the mic.

Today we come to another big reveal moment, but to understand it we need to get the bigger context:

John 7 – Feast of Tabernacles. Is 9:2,3

John 1:1-15, 14

NASB John 1

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. 5 The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth

– God “tabernacle among us” or as Kaiser said, “pup tented” among us.

i.e. **Jesus came and set up camp among His people.**

This feast of Booths or Tabernacles is also known as a festival of joy and the “Festival of the Nations” Zech 14:16-19

This was a festive happy event in which the people lived in huts for a week. It’s like a giant church camp retreat without the facilities – you make your own.

It was a reminder of when they lived in the desert in tents and huts as God led them from Egypt.

There were two ceremonies during the week:

The Water Ceremony: Levitical priests descend down to the Pool of Siloam and fill a special golden flask (pitcher) with water. They return through the Water Gate of Jerusalem and ‘shofars’ are sounded. The golden flask is then placed with two silver basins, which are different from one another, on the southern side of the great altar – one filled with water and the other with wine. While the words of Psalm 113 and 118 are recited, they shake palm branches in their hands and march seven times around the burnt offering altar, while the water / wine drips to the base of the altar. It was during this water drawing ceremony when Y’shua said the words in John 7:37- 39.

Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" 39 But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

A second major ceremony, **the Light Ceremony**, is also performed later the day when the sun sets and that is the illumination of the Temple, with four enormous golden lampstands higher than the Temple walls. That night Jerusalem glittered like a diamond.
This is a harvest festival and what are the two things needed for a good harvest? WATER AND LIGHT

John moves to chapter 8:12-14 (following the episode of the woman caught in adultery v.1-11 - Jesus calls out the accuser and gives grace and instruction to the woman)

With the backdrop of this great Light Ceremony we read...

12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life." 13 So the Pharisees said to Him, "You are testifying about Yourself; Your testimony is not true." 14 Jesus answered and said to them, "Even if I testify 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.

**The Magnitude ...
of the metaphor,
of the claim,
of the call**

The **Metaphor** of light is huge. Think of the importance of light.
**Without it we don't have
Color**

What color is an orange?

What color is an orange when the lights are out

The colors are found in light, they don't inhere to the item itself.

Without source of light, there is no color.

Ex: the rainbow - prism of color in light

- **Life**

Take away light and all life will die.

-**knowledge of truth**

We need light to understand reality. If we live in the dark we can't know our surroundings, we stumble

-**joy**

those who live in dark place - North Pole etc get depressed

If we have pure unfiltered light, we can't have

Life - we die

Sight; we go Blind - we can't look directly into pure light without burning out eyes out. Ex: ECLIPSE

Joy - seeing ourselves in clear light is frightening emotionally, spiritually and physically

THE MAGNITUDE OF THE CLAIM- the Light of THE WORLD

Jesus claims to be the Light -Shekinah glory of God

Light is a symbol of glory, of holiness - God is light and in him is no darkness at all. Darkness is a symbol of chaos, void, evil. From OT to NT we see that God is light and brings light.

Gen - Let there be light - "darkness hovered over the surface of the deep"

Exodus - Burning Bush

Exodus and OT - the "light of the glory of God" is what lead the people and was the manifestation of the presence of God.

Isaiah – the people who walked in darkness have seen a GREAT LIGHT
Light of the Angels at the birth of Jesus.
Mt. of Transfiguration
Saul was blinded by the flashing light of Christ.
2 Cor 4:3-6– the light of the glory of God.

The ongoing saga of the OT is the people of God leaving the path of the Light of God and turning to their own way.

We aren't much different today. Today we live in a culture that says to "Seek your own inner light". That is the sophisticated way people say it, but on street level it's more like "It's your thing, do what you wanna do" or "If it feels good do it", or "Just do you" – Diet Coke commercial that turns into some metaphysical statement about self-identity.

There is nothing new under the sun because those are echoes of the Book of Judges – Every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

You may not be sure where you are with God or with Jesus, or you may be in conversations with friends who are trying to sort through it, so here is a key point...

One criteria for coming to Jesus is admitting that you need His light. You don't have to figure it all out, you just need to know that you don't know what you don't know. We bring nothing so that we can receive everything. Last week we saw that all we needed was to admit that we were hungry for the True Bread.

We tend to be committed to Following our own light, looking within for the light... HOW'S THAT WORKING FOR US?

- marriages and families falling apart – or never forming – (the children are the ones who suffer)
- record drug use and deaths
- loneliness is rising
- suicide is among the top 3 causes of death in America

THE MAGNITUDE OF THE CALL

Follow the light and look to Jesus for light in EVERY area of life

**If you are a non-believer then the implications of Jesus as the Light won't apply to you as they do to those who profess Christ. You can listen in and even apply some things if you like because they make good sense but doing these things does not make one a Christian.

Application for believers: Christian –

To live in the light means an intense pursuit of integrity and holiness.

Eph 5:8-10 " You were formerly darkness, but now you are LIGHT IN THE LORD; walk as children of light." Matt – You are the light of the World

1 John 1:5ff

This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; 7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

We need light, and it is good news that the light has come in the flesh and that his Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.

We believe in Jesus as Savior, but struggle to live in his light as seen in His example and His Word – OT AND NT

- We struggle because of a lack of knowledge- we are ignorant of God's truth. That can be overcome.
- We struggle with the step of faith that may be needed to apply the light. That can be overcome as well by the power of the Spirit, and often by the encouragement of the saints.

Since "faith comes by hearing", we can battle with both areas by having our hearts renewed by the Word.

It may sound like the trite preacher thing to say but **having the Light of the Word shine on our hearts is essential for growth.**

-Jesus says, "forgive "but we struggle with bitterness, anger, and contempt

-Jesus says, "Walk in humility", but we are easily offended or circle the wagons when someone has a different view.

-Jesus gives light to husbands and wives, but do we walk in it?

-Jesus gives light about a kingdom mentality and the call to making disciples, but do we live with that kind of intentionality?

-Jesus gives light about stewardship of time, talent, and treasure, but do we live as if our lives are our own. EX: Screwtape Letters chap 21

You must therefore zealously guard in his mind the curious assumption 'My time is my own'. Let him have the feeling that he starts each day as the lawful possessor of twenty-four hours....

The sense of ownership in general is always to be encouraged. The humans are always putting up claims to ownership which sound equally funny in Heaven and in Hell and we must keep them doing so. Much of the modern resistance to chastity comes from men's belief that they 'own' their bodies—...

And all the time the joke is that the word 'Mine' in its fully possessive sense cannot be uttered by a human being about anything. In the long run either Our Father or the Enemy will say 'Mine' of each thing that exists, and specially of each man. They will find out in the end, never fear, to whom their time, their souls, and their bodies really belong—certainly not to them, whatever happens.

How much Light and God do we want?

Three Dollars Worth of God (adapted)

*I would like to buy \$3 worth of God, please.
Not enough to explode my soul or disturb my sleep,
but just enough to equal a cup of warm milk
or a snooze in the sunshine.*

*I don't want enough of God to make me love a black man
or really try to forgive someone who has hurt me, or understand someone whose politics I don't
agree with..*

*I want ecstasy, not transformation.
I want the warmth of the womb, not a new birth.
I want a pound of the Eternal in a paper sack.
I would like to buy \$3 worth of God, please.*

— Wilbur Rees

How much of God do you want today?
By whose light are you living?

Everything we look at must be seen through the light of His eyes because we have no light on our own.

We act like we have light; we put it out on social media and pontificate, but the world is in a mess because we ignore the Light of the World.

If we follow Him we'll never walk in darkness, but the natural heart loves the darkness more than the light.

EX: the experience project site

From The Experience Project website a post by someone called "Beyond repair"

I prefer Darkness over light. The darkness allows me to hide who I am and what I truly feel.

In the light all things have a chance to be revealed. In the Darkness all things are easy to hide. The darkness is a place where you can lose yourself. Being lost in the dark is a great place to be because then you are free from what you were and can be what you want. Darkness is bliss.

Is this what we want? Ignorant bliss

EX: people don't want to go to the doctor or the auto mechanic for fear of what they may find out, but it doesn't get rid of the disease or the bad transmission.

Ex: couples are afraid of pre-marital or marital counseling because they want to remain ignorant of their problems. They'd rather live in darkness.

Or singles and individuals avoid counseling for the same reason.

As believers, we don't want darkness. Not if we know Christ, the light of life. Real life. **We are not made for darkness, but for walking in the Light of God's grace and truth.**

Everything about Jesus was life giving.

Healing and life flowed from Him to lepers, the infirmed, the blind, and even the dead.

We have no reason to fear the light. The light can't expose anything that is not covered by Jesus. He brings light, and it may expose things, but He does so for our healing and His glory.

EX: Jesus takes his holy light saber to prune away the dead dry branches in our lives, but he does it with care and in all wisdom.

The Holy Spirit is speaking words of light and life to your heart. Listen and believe. Repent if need be and take a step of faith into the light as you walk with Jesus.

Light is someone we meet, and He is the one who entered the darkness so that we might be children of light by faith in Him.

The Aztecs used to sacrifice human blood in order to empower their "SUN" God. Without the blood sacrifice the sun would lose its power.

The Gospel is the opposite - THE SON, who is the light of the world shed His blood to give us power.

Gen 1 to Rev 22:5

Don't settle for three dollars' worth of God.

COME TO THE TABLE

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