

I AM The Light of the World

Opening Prayer:

Creating God, shine your light on our time together and into our hearts. Open our eyes to understand how you are our light and how you want to guide us. We especially pray for your light to shine into the concerning situations that we have named. Shine your light into the places in our lives where we need guidance in deciding how to be faithful to your call. We pray the in the name of Christ, our undying, unwavering light. AMEN.

Supporting Scripture:

John 7:2 Now the Jew's Feast of the Tabernacles was at hand.

John 7:14 About the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and taught,

Key Verse John 8:12 ¹² *Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*¹

Historical Context:

This encounter with the Pharisees occurs on Jesus second visit to the temple during the Feast of the Tabernacle, also known as the Feast of the booths (Sukkots). Last week we discussed that the Feast is conducted in the Fall of each year to commemorate the Israelites journey through the

¹ [The Revised Standard Version](#). (1971). (Jn 8). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

I AM The Light of the World

wilderness after leaving Egypt. Moses instructed them that when they entered the Promised Land, they were to remember the experience, Hebrews were to keep the festival of booths as a reminder of their journey through the wilderness to the Promise Land. (DEUT. 16:13-15)

Questions:

What is the significance of the sukkots? What do you believe the booths symbolize?

Answer: The sukkots symbolized that life is a pilgrimage. Their journey through the wilderness was temporary. They were headed to a Promised Land where one day they would build more lasting houses.

For-shadow.

- Life is a pilgrimage.
- The Journey is temporary.
- The journey will lead to a lasting house.

How were Moses and his people guided through the wilderness during their 40-year journey?

Answer: They had 2 pillars they could always see that confirmed God's presence; a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. They knew it was time to move when the Pillar moved, their journey was following God. (Exodus 13:21)

Characteristics of the Light

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- It illuminates.
- It guides.

Revised Standard Version

Chapter 8

¹ but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

² Early in the morning he came again to the temple; all the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them.

³ The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst

⁴ they said to him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery.

⁵ Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such. What do you say about her?”

⁶ This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground.

⁷ And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.”

⁸ And once more he bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground.

⁹ But when they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the eldest, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him.

I AM The Light of the World

¹⁰ Jesus looked up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”

¹¹ She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and do not sin again.”

¹² *Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”*²

Question.

Looking at the 12th verse. What word or words speak to you in this scripture?

Answer.

- I Am is the Light of the world.
- His followers will not walk in darkness.
- His followers will have the “Light of Life”.

What is the “Light of Life”?

Jesus is saying for those who understand that life is a journey, for those that seek light and direction thru all of life’s stopping places, He will be Our pillar of light, be our guide, show us the way. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

² [The Revised Standard Version](#). (1971). (Jn 8). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

I AM The Light of the World

You could say the story of the bible is one of moving from darkness to light.

The first thing that God spoke into existence was light.

Gen: 1:1-5

V1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

V2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.

V3 And God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.

V4 And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

Repeat v4.

- God saw that the “Light” was good.
- God separated the light from the darkness.
- In other words, darkness cannot exist in the midst of light.

V5 God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.)

Revelation 22:5

I AM The Light of the World

⁵ And night shall be no more; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they shall reign for ever and ever. ³

Isaiah 60:1

¹ *Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.*⁴

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.*⁵

Followers of Christ.

John 8:31-32

Jesus then said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free⁶

John 8: 39-41a

³ [The Revised Standard Version](#). (1971). (Re 22:5). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

⁴ [The Revised Standard Version](#). (1971). (Is 60:1). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

⁵ [The Revised Standard Version](#). (1971). (Is 9:2). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

⁶ [The Revised Standard Version](#). (1971). (Jn 8:31–32). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

I AM The Light of the World

They answered him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would do what Abraham did,⁴⁰ but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth which I heard from God; this is not what Abraham did.⁴¹ You do what your father did.”⁷

What did Abraham do?

Abraham listened to God. He was obedient to God. Abraham believed God.

The bible constantly affirms that when God comes on the scene, there is light. God makes darkness a choice.

John 8:42-47

⁴² Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I proceeded and came forth from God; I came not of my own accord, but he sent me.

⁴³ Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word.

⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

⁷ [*The Revised Standard Version*](#). (1971). (Jn 8:39–41). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

I AM The Light of the World

⁴⁵ But, because I tell the truth, you do not believe me.

⁴⁶ Which of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me?

⁴⁷ He who is of God hears the words of God; the reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.”⁸

WHO IS YOUR DADDY?

Closing Litany and Prayer

One: When we look around us and feel that only darkness and emptiness surround us, illuminate our hearts with Jesus words.

All: I am the Light of the World

One: When we look for God in places of pain and suffering, pleading for that holy presence to be made evident even in the gloom, help us to see God at work through Jesus’ promise.

All: I am the light of the World

One: When we feel far away from God, even when we create the distance ourselves, remind us that the love of God is always touching us through Jesus’ words.

All: I am the light of the World.

⁸ [*The Revised Standard Version*](#). (1971). (Jn 8:42–47). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

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One: When we can't figure out where to next, what to do, or who to be, help us to hear God's call and see the path illuminated by the one who says,

All: I am the light of the World

One: When we wonder how we will go out into the world and shine God's light, sharing God's love with all the earth, let us follow Jesus' lead as he reveals himself to us saying

ALL: I am the light of the World. AMEN.

Closing Prayer:

Holy God we ask you to fill us with your light. Shine your light through us into the situations and encounters we have mentioned here. May others see you and your way more clearly because of seeing your light in our lives. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the eternal light, who shows us the way. Amen.