

The Light of the World | FULL | JULY 8, 2018

In Jesus' second "I AM" statement he says, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life." He invites us into a journey that has us walking out of darkness, and into His glorious light. As Christians we're meant to live not perfect lives, but lives that

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF LIGHT

- Remember that light is a prevalent theme in Scripture
 - Think Genesis 1:3
 - Remember John's introduction to his own Gospel (Jn. 1:1-5), he perfectly foreshadows Jesus' making this statement.
- Historically, God led the people of Israel with Light out of their captivity in Egypt.
- Every year the Israelites would celebrate with the Festival of Booths, which was a giant celebration of all that God had done in the past, and also looked towards a future deliverance that would save the Israelite people. (Think like Summer camp or a campfire gathering on steroids!)
 - The Israelites were longing to experience the fulfillment of God's promise.

JESUS IS THE FULFILLMENT OF THE EXODUS

- This is the scene that Jesus enters into. He declares that he is the guy that the people have been waiting for. He is the fulfillment of Scriptures like Isaiah 42:6-7
- Jesus is the one who has come to deliver the Israelites, not from the hands of the Egyptians, or the Romans, or any other empire, but from the darkness and sin of the world! C'MON!

JESUS INVITES US INTO THE LIGHT

- Jesus doesn't invite us into perfect lives, he invites us into lives that are no longer lived hidden from the light.
 - Light exposes, it's the nature of light. However, in Jesus making the statement about himself, he reminds us that being exposed by the light isn't a bad thing.
-

- Remember the story immediately preceding this statement, the woman caught in adultery. Jesus exposed her sin, and the sin of others, yet he didn't condemn.(John 8:1-11)
- We're freed to walk in the light, not perfectly without sin, but without anything needing to remain hidden.
- Jesus invites us to realize, like the man who was born blind in John 9, that God wants to work in our lives, even through the darkness.
- As we walk in the light, the darkness dissipates, because the nature of light is to illuminate the dark. As we come to face our own darkness, you and I have an opportunity to release other people to live their lives in the light as well.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would your life change if you believed that God was less interested in fixing you, and more interested in ensuring that you didn't have to walk with anything in your life hidden from him?
2. Would you say that you are longing for Jesus to deliver you from walking in darkness? Why/why not?
3. If you knew that by sharing part of your darkness with someone they would be inclined to walk out of darkness into the light, would the risk/fear of rejection be enough to stop you? Why/Why not?
4. Who is one person that you can let into a darker part of your life so as to bring it into the light of Jesus?