

Sermon Topic: I am the Light of the World, by Pr Richard Seow

Sermon Text: John 8:12

“When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”” John 8:12 NIV

Introduction

Light is used to describe God in Old Testament

- Cross references: Psalm 104:1-2, Psalms 27:1 56:13

Jesus is the very embodiment of God, He is God coming to us in human form.

John in Chapter 1:1-5 wrote: in the beginning was the Word.

- This reference Isaiah. 9:2: the promise of God's salvation.
- The promise is fulfilled through Jesus, He is the promised Light of the world that shines on those who dwell in darkness.
- Jesus is the Light not for the Jews but for the whole humanity.
- He is THE Light among men. He has come as God among men.

Mathew Henry wrote: one sun enlightens the whole world, so does one Christ, and there needs no more.

What Is The Impact of His Coming as Light of The World?

- a Those who follow Jesus will be **delivered** from living in darkness, referring to sins, ignorance danger and spiritual death.
- b They will have the light of life and will be **spiritually renewed and alive** in Christ.
 - The light of Christ shines in the darkness but the darkness doesn't comprehend it.
 - Apart from the grace of God that is working within us, we cannot comprehend this Light.
 - It is only when the grace of God works in us that we are led to a point of spiritual understanding.
 - We recognise that the Light of the world for who He is and yield our will to His. And accept that His purpose becomes our purpose.
- c Light **dispels** darkness
 - Light illumine the space that otherwise will be dark.
 - In the spiritual sense, light exposes those that are evil. It brings to light what had been done in secret, in darkness.
 - Jesus explained to Nicodemus why people reject Him (John 3 19-20)
 - He explained that men loved darkness and hate the light. There is fear that their deeds will be exposed.

We thank God for His grace that has drawn us to Him. We are not better than others, not that we are more worthy because God's love has compelled us to love Him. Like others we were formerly walking in darkness but Jesus the Light of the world has brought us into the light.

- 1 Jesus, as Light, will **lead us on the path of righteousness**. He will expose all that is evil and displeasing to God.
 - John 8:12 writes, those who choose to follow him will no longer walk in darkness.
 - Previously in the Exodus journey, God led the people through the wilderness to the Promised Land with a pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night. That guidance is external.
 - Now, Jesus as the Light of the world, is leading us from within by the in-dwelling of the Holy Spirit.
 - Pr Richard's Personal Testimony
 - His conversion story encourages us not to fix others before accepting them into church. Our role is to present God's love to them. Only God changes lives. When others receive the Light, the change will happen from within as a natural consequence.
- 2 Jesus will continue to guide us, to illumine our heart and mind, to shape our thoughts and conduct. He **consecrates** our souls and **conforms** us to be more like Him.
 - In a dark room, there is a lot of dust. A single beam of light can show up the dust around us.
 - Similarly, nothing can escape the light of Christ Jesus. His light can penetrate the deepest recesses and exposes any dirt in the dark corners. Jesus enlightens us and shows us what is evil.
 - If we fall in sins, it is not because we are not aware of the sins but because we have not yielded fully our lives to God.
 - Sometimes we try to hide from the light, other times we may run ahead of the light beam. We trip in the dark not because the light is inadequate but because we turn our back on the light source, or we run ahead of it.
 - Light always overcomes darkness. No darkness is so intense that it extinguishes the light. Regardless how dark the place may be, if there is light, it will immediately light up and dispels the darkness.
 - Charles Sheldon's Example: What Would Jesus Do? (WWJD)
 - Whenever we face a crossroad of choices, we should pause and ask: what would Jesus do (in difficult relationships, in complex business situations, etc).
 - There is a way forward if we care to discern what Jesus would do.
 - But when we have landed ourselves in a compromised situation, we would quickly find that we couldn't ask ourselves that question, as Jesus would never be found in that compromised situation. Solution: quickly get out of it.
 - If we walk in the light consistently and find it difficult to make any headway, then perhaps follow the Israelites' example: pause when the cloud stopped above the tabernacle.
- 3 Because the Light of the world is in us, we become **the light of the world**.

- We are not been saved only for the purpose to enjoy basking ourselves in God's light. We are delivered from darkness so that we can in turn God's little lights to the rest of the world (Mathew 5 14-16).
- We are to live in such a way to bring honour and praise to His name.
 - There is always a story to tell about our deliverance from our sinful past from damnation and finding guidance in our journey's lives.

Summary

The condition is that we have to follow Jesus as Light. The Christian walk is the whole journey. A true follower of Jesus, will walk one step at time, and complete the journey, guided by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. We cannot move from darkness to light by our own effort.

If you have surrendered your life to Christ, he has delivered you from darkness.

You are now a light to the world that others may see and receive Jesus. You can effectively reflect the light of Christ so that others can see Him and follow Him.

May the Holy Spirit continue to remind us of God's word and may we be empowered by Him to follow Him moment by moment.

Group Reflection and Discussion Questions

(You may not have time to cover all questions. Pick the ones you want to discuss)

- 1 What is the brightest light you have ever seen? How did you feel in the presence of that bright light? Safe, secure, warm? What is the darkest dark that you have ever experienced? How did you feel when surrounded by darkness? Alone, afraid, cold?

- 2 Would you rather be in the presence of light or ssurrounded by darkness? Explain your answer. How important is light in the world today?

- 3 What two things does Jesus specifically say in verse 12 about who He is?
 - a Throughout the Old Testament, who is associated with light? Read Psalm 27:1; 119:105; and Proverbs 6:23.

- b How do Old Testament prophecies describe the coming Messiah? Read Isaiah 9:2, 6; 42:6- 7; and 60:1-3.

- c When Jesus says that He is the light of the world, what would every Jew at the Feast of Booths realize about who he is claiming to be?

- d How did people respond to Jesus' teaching that He is the light of the world? Read John 8:30.

- 4 What is the responsibility of those who are living in the light of Christ? Read Matt 5:14-16.
 - a How has the light of Jesus overcome the darkness that used to consume your life? How has the light of Christ changed you?

 - b How have you shared the light of Jesus with those who are walking in darkness? What was the biggest challenge in sharing the light of Jesus?

Jesus is the light of the world, and as such has the authority to guide and direct your life. Allow your life to be so consumed by the light of Jesus so that you can reflect his light in the dark places of this world.

Action: I will be light in the darkness this week by choosing to _____.