



Christmas

December 13, 2015
Elevation | 10:45 am
Pastor Matt Davis

The Light That Speaks John 8

The Light That Was On The Move

"Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light." Genesis 1:3

"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." 1 John 1:5

- **The Light of God was in the Garden.**

"Then the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself.'" Genesis 3:8-10

- **The Light of God was in the Tabernacle.**

"Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle...for throughout all their journeys, the cloud of the Lord was on the tabernacle by day, and there was fire in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel." Exodus 40:34-38

- **The Light of God was in the Temple, and then not in the Temple**

"Now when Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the house." 2 Chronicles 7:1

"The glory of the Lord went up from the midst of the city and stood over the mountain which is east of the city." Ezekiel 11:23

The Light That Was With Us: Jesus Testifies of Himself

*"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." John 1:14*

- **Jesus makes a declaration that He is the Light.**

*"Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, 'I **am** the Light of the world...'" John 8:12*

- **Jesus makes an invitation to follow the Light.**

*"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.'" John 8:12*

- **Jesus wants to be known by us.**

*"So they were saying to Him, 'Where is Your Father?' Jesus answered, 'You know neither Me nor My Father; **if you knew Me, you would know My Father also.**'" John 8:19*

- **Our only hope for salvation is to receive the Light.**

*"And He was saying to them, 'You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you **believe that I am He**, you will die in your sins.'" John 8:23-24*

The Light That Is In Us

"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?" 1 Corinthians 6:19

"...as I live, all the earth will be filled with the glory of the Lord." Numbers 14:21

Digging Deeper:

Jesus did not just randomly stand up one day in Jerusalem and start yelling out, “I am the Light of the world!” To understand the context that He was sticking Himself into and the backdrop of what was happening that day in particular from John 8:12 when He says, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life,” only heightens the intensity and the moment in which He testifies that He is God! He says this during the Feast of Tabernacles or Booths, or Sukkot. We know this because in John 7:2 it says, “Now the feast of the Jews, the Feast of Booths, was near.”

The backdrop for what is taking place during this feast comes to us from the Mishnah, which is a collection of oral tradition and commentary of Jewish law from rabbis over the centuries. The Mishnah describes the Illumination of the Temple during the Feast of Tabernacles. During this pilgrimage feast, there were four candlesticks, 75 feet tall, with four golden bowls on top and four ladders resting against each. Four youths of priestly decent stood at the top of the ladders holding 10-gallon pitchers filled with pure oil which they poured into each bowl. What came from this scene was light so bright that it says, “There was no courtyard in Jerusalem that was not lit up with the light at the libation water-well ceremony” (Sukkah 5:3, a section from the Mishnah) Again, in John 9 Jesus says, “While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world.”

And finally in John 10:22-23, we read, “At that time the Feast of the Dedication took place at Jerusalem; it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple in the portico of Solomon.” The dedication was a remembrance of cleansing the temple that was desecrated by Antiochus Epiphanes IV and then restored after the Maccabean Revolt. This Feast of Dedication that took place in what we know today as Hanukkah, or the Festival of Lights. We remember and celebrate as we light the menorah that Jesus came into this world as both a light and a servant, inviting us to know and follow Him, the Light of the World.

LifeGroup Discussion:

1. God has made Himself known throughout history, which is important, but in particular, how has He made Himself known to you in your life?
2. What does it mean to you that the God of this universe has made Himself known to you? What does it mean to you that Jesus presented Himself to the people as the “Light of the world” during this Illumination of the Temple ceremony?
3. In what ways can you be bringing the testimony of Who Jesus says He is to others so they might know Him? Do you regularly testify of Him? How about specifically during this Christmas season?

Next Steps:

1. **Join a LifeGroup to find community and support to deepen your faith.** LifeGroups are ongoing small group communities that gather together throughout the week to CONNECT in a smaller setting, GROW together in our faith, and REACH out together to our community. calvarylife.org/lifegroups
2. **Celebrate Jesus as the Light.** Invite a friend to join you for either of Calvary’s one-hour Christmas Eve Candlelight services on Thursday, December 24 at 5:00 pm in the Worship Center or at 11:00 pm in the Chapel. calvarylife.org/Christmas
3. **If this season brings you emotional darkness, join us at The Longest Night service** on the longest night of the year, Monday, December 21 at 7:00 pm in the Chapel. Christmas is a joyous time, but the realities of life can often bring us heartache and loneliness. In this reflective one-hour service of comfort, hope and healing in the midst of any grief, loss or pain, let’s look to the Light of Christ. calvarylife.org/Christmas