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Sunday Morning Sermon

John 8:12-20

Sunday, June 30, 2024

**PP“Jesus, the Light of the World”**

**John 8:12-20**

**Intro:**

* Christmas lights early in November 2020
* The three pilgrimage holidays:
* Passover
* Feast of Weeks
* Feast of Booths
* PP The Feast of Tabernacles (Booths) Picture
* It was a week of celebration starting on a sabbath and ending on the next sabbath. On the 8th day there would be a final feast. Prescribed in the books of the law like in Exodus 23:16 and Deuteronomy 16:13.

PP Sukkah picture

* Every seven years, all would gather to hear the books of the law read.
* The Temple was dedicated at this time under King Solomon (2 Chronicles 5-7)
* Upon returning to Israel after captivity they celebrated it again in Ezra.
* The prophet Hagai preached a sermon to rebuild the temple 16 years later.
* In Nehemiah they celebrated it after rebuilding the walls and read the law to everyone there.
* It occurred in our month of September after the harvest.
* It was like a combination of Thanksgiving and Christmas.
* PP Herod’s Temple picture. Jesus was inside the women’s court during this conversation.
* They were also to bring their tithes of their first fruits during this celebration.

PP Widows Mites of Mark Picture

* At the end of the 1st day of the Festival, the candelabra’s would be lit.

PP The lighting during the Feast of Tabernacles Picture

* We take the lights at night for granted due to our electricity and light bulbs.

PP Manhattan skyline at night

* This would be visible throughout the city.

PP The Fiest of Tabernacles of Ancient Times

1. **PP The Light came to his own, but his own did not receive Him.**
2. Jesus declared himself to be the Light of the World.
3. He was referring to prophecies in Isaiah.

PP Isaiah 42:6,7

**6**“I am the Lord; I have called you[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2042%3A6-7&version=ESV#fen-ESV-18487a)] in righteousness;
    I will take you by the hand and keep you;
I will give you as a covenant for the people,
    a light for the nations,
**7**    to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
    from the prison those who sit in darkness.

1. He was again declaring himself to be the Messiah/God.
2. He was also saying that his message of the gospel was for the whole world.

PP Isaiah 49:6

he says:
“It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
    to raise up the tribes of Jacob
    and to bring back the preserved of Israel;
I will make you as a light for the nations,
    that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

1. The Pharisees were bent on judging if he was legitimate or not.
2. By this time, the Pharisees recognized that on repeated occasions Jesus had declared himself to be the Messiah.
3. Those who hold the levers of power in a society have the power to judge between legitimacy and illegitimacy.

PP “An Appeal to Heaven Flag” Picture Controversy.

An appeal to heaven is a phrase from John Locke’s *2nd Treatise on Government* which was very influential on the founders of our nation. An appeal to heaven for the justice of our cause. It was used on the ships of the Massachusetts’s Navy and General George Washington also adopted it and it was dubbed “Washington’s Cruisers Flag.”

1. The leaders were bent on proving that Jesus was illegitimate.
2. If they were able to succeed, they could cause people to reject him, and they would distance themselves.

*First turn the populace against them.*

1. They could also then isolate him and his followers and use the powers they had to destroy or get rid of them if necessary.

*Then you can turn the powers of the state against them.*

1. Jesus was himself divisive (controversial).
2. They rejected him as the Messiah (John 1:11).

Read John 1:4-12

**11**He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

1. He came unto his own people, but they didn’t accept him.
2. They loved the praise of men more than the praise of God (John 12:42-43).

John 12:42-43

**42**Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; **43**for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

1. At the heart of the spiritual darkness in our nation is rebellion against God. (John 3:19-20)
2. **PP The Light of Life in a world of darkness.**

We must always be aware of the proper definitions of words. We are easily deceived and led astray when we assume that we are all operating under the same definitions.

1. PP Light and Darkness represent:
* Light- Goodness and truth
* Darkness- Evil and falsehood

God is God. In other words, Good is what God is.

 PP 1 John 1:5-

**5**This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

1. Light of life for all men.

PP “But what the Evangelist has in mind here is the spiritual illumination that dispels the darkness of sin and unbelief.” -F.E. Bruce

*In one sense, the light is revelation from God.*

1. God’s Word is a light in this world.
2. Jesus is the Light of the world.
3. He is God’s Revelation.
4. He has the words of eternal life.
5. He is the fullness of the Godhead bodily.
6. He shows us the Kingdom of Heaven.

The Light gives us:

* Truth
* Purpose and meaning in this world
* Joy
* Peace that surpasses understanding
* The way to live
* Wisdom

PP Colossians 1:13,14

**13**He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, **14**in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

**Conclusion:**

* We are the light of the world.
* We are now God’s Revelation to the world.

PP 1 Peter 2:9

**9**But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

* Walk as children of the light.

PP Ephesians 2:8,9

**8**for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light **9**(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true),