

I AM: *I am the Light of the World* (Week 3)—Gabe Cleave

John 8:12 (NIV)— 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.”

Feast of Tabernacles/Booths (Sukkot)

- This is a Holiday where Israelites would set up booths/tents/tabernacles made of sticks to dwell in for 8 days (Sabbath to Sabbath) to remind them of their time in the wilderness and how God protected them and provided for them.

The Pillar of Cloud and Fire

- God presence would manifest in a pillar of cloud that led them by day and pillar of fire that led them by night.
- The cloud would have provided shade for them during the day.
- The fire would have provided warmth for them at night along with scaring off any potential enemies or predators that would want to come in and attack them.
- When the cloud or the fire moved, they moved. When it stopped, they stopped.
- They couldn't move until God told them to move. God led them and they followed.

Matthew 4:19 (NKJV)— Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

John 9:1-7; 35-41 (NLT)

What does this mean for us today?

1. God is still calling us to walk in His light

John 12:35-36a, 46— 35 Jesus replied, “My light will shine for you just a little longer. Walk in the light while you can, so the darkness will not overtake you. Those who walk in the darkness cannot see where they are going. **36** Put your trust in the light while there is still time; then you will become children of the light.”

v. **46** I have come as a light to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in me will no longer remain in the dark.

1 John 1:5-10 (NIV)

Matthew 4:19 (NKJV)

- Are you walking in His light?
- Are you following Jesus, allowing Him to change you and committed to His mission?

2. We are called to be lights in a dark world

Matthew 5:14-16 (NLT)— **14** “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

- How are you being the light of the world?

2 Corinthians 4:4-6 (NLT)— 4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

There is spiritual blindness all around us

- We are called to be lights.
- We are called to preach the gospel.
- We are called to serve others.
- We are called to live in such a way that people see what we do and glorify God.

Genesis 1:1-4 (NIV)— 1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. 3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.

- God is still separating light from darkness.
- We are people that are called to walk in the light and be lights that reflect His glory.

For Small Group Discussion: What stood out to you the most from this week's message?

Opening Question: Have you ever been somewhere so dark that you were actually scared?

Main Point: To a world lost in darkness, the light of Jesus exposes what is hidden and is a guide for our lives.

Main Scripture: John 8:12 & John 3:19-21

Head:

- What does Jesus mean when He says that He is the light of the world?
- How do we determine what is light and what is darkness in our current culture?

Heart:

- What is your story of turning from darkness into the light?
- What darkness has been difficult for you to overcome?

Hands:

- How can you let your light shine in your current life situations?

Additional Scripture: John 9:38-40, Matthew 5:14-16, John 1:1-5

Tips and Resources: <https://www.gotquestions.org/light-of-the-world.html>



Sermon Series Resources: <https://bit.ly/RLcurrentseries>