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**Goal of today: That you would truly see Jesus as the light of the world and then choose to live in the open, honest, and transformative light that Jesus gives.**

## Part 1: "I am the light of the world"

(John 8:12 ESV) "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.'"

- "I am"
  - Identity statement - Jesus is claiming to be Yahweh, Himself

(John 20:30-31) "Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name."

- Jesus is 1) the Christ 2) the Son of God, and 3) that believing you may have life in His name.

(John 1:1-5 NIV) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

- John puts Jesus's story eternally outside of the cosmic story and then tells us that He steps into it
- "The"
  - "1) Jesus being 'the light of the world' means the world has no other light than him. If there is going to be a light for the world, it will be Jesus. It is Jesus or darkness. There is no third alternative. No other light. 2) It means, therefore, that all the world, and everyone in it needs Jesus as their light." - John Piper

- "Light"
  - #1 Jesus is the light just as physical light allows us to see paths and obstacles in the dark, so
    - Jesus is true knowledge
      - (Psalm 119:105) "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."
        - Illuminates what is real and what is false
        - What is important and what is not important

(Exodus 13:21) "And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night."

- You have the Holy Spirit... which Jesus said was greater than even having him physically with the disciples.

(John 16:7) "It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go the Helper will not come."

- #2 Jesus is the light just as physical light can kill bacteria, mold, fungi, and even viruses, so
  - Jesus defines and exemplifies moral purity... and both exposes sin and is the means by which sin can be put to death.

(Isaiah 5:20 NIV) "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter."

- #3 Jesus is the light that shows the very presence of God

(Hebrews 1:1-3 NIV) [...] The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.

- "Of the world"
  - "It means that the world was made for this light. This is not a foreign light. This is the light of the owner of the world. When this light comes, it not only makes sin plain as foreign and ugly, but it also makes everything good in the world shine with its full and true beauty. This world was made to be illumined by this light. This light of Christ is native to the world." - John Piper

**Part 2: "Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."**

- Why will a person who walks with Jesus never walk in darkness?
  - Answer: Because Jesus will always be with you and places His Spirit inside of You.

**Life Pivot Verse** John 8:31-32 ESV "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

- It wasn't the day that I heard that verse that changed my life.
- It was the day that I acted on that verse that changed my life.
  - So what happens when we walk in the light?

(1 John 1:7-9) "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."

- #1 We have fellowship with one another... because you can now know me and give me the love that you have received
- #2 The blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

- Now what?

(Matthew 5:14) "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden [...] let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

### Part 3: The Miracle to Validate His Claim

- Jesus heals a man born blind
  - Read through John 9 and point out the contrasts between physical blindness and sight and spiritual blindness and sight.
  - The Pharisees, though physically able to see Jesus, are spiritually blind to who He is.

### Conclusion:

- Do you believe that Jesus is the I AM?
- Are you living in the light as He is in the light?
  - If not, what lie might you be believing?
- Let your light shine. See Matthew 5:14.

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

### Questions:

- 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?
- What is your story of turning from the darkness into the light?
- What darkness has been difficult for you to overcome?
- How can you let your light shine in your current life situations?

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

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