



2022-5-7 Light For A Dark World

John 8:12-30

One Couldn't Help But Ask

- In V-8 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life." His first two words are a powerful statement. Essentially "I am" and "the light", both being singular state that I alone am the only light of the world. Knowing that Jesus constantly used the scripture the Jews were used to hearing, can you use "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" *Psalm 119:105* and "Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me" *Psalm 43:3* to come to Jesus' claim? Does "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." *John 1:1* help makw the case?
- Jesus further says, "He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life."

Our Sermon included the contrast of "the light of the world" and a ceremony associated with the Feast of Tabernacles where two large Manora were used to light the entire court of women. It was known as The Illumination of the Temple.

Charles Spurgeon also commented on this saying, "If a man could travel so fast as always to follow the sun, of course he would always be in the light. If the day should ever come when the speed of the railway shall be equal to the speed of the world's motion, then a man may so live as to never lose the light. Now he that follows Christ shall never walk in darkness." As a point of reference, at the Equator, the earth is 24,901 miles in circumference. If one were to remain in the same spot of light, he would need to travel at about 1,037 mph.

Obviously, Jesus is talking about something other than physical light. Can you comment on the nature of the "...light of life."?

- In His Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5:14 Jesus says, "You (His disciples) are the light of the world." If we are also His disciples, we would infer from this that we are also to be the light of the world. This almost seems at odds with the statement, "I am the light of the world." Can you explain how both are true?
- The Jews have been waiting & praying for the Messiah for about 1,500 - 1,600 years. When He arrives, they seem to decide from the beginning that they, the church leaders, not He Emanuel, should be the determining body passing judgement on the conditions of acceptance of the candidate. Can you comment on how they arrived at this pre-crucifixion approach and would we expect there to be a difference today with 2,000 additional years of post-crucifixion history behind us?

The Take Aways

- Jesus is constantly repeating simple concepts to those who are supposedly His people. It seems tedious in reading it, insulting in the watching of it played out and we might wonder why He so patiently repeats it so often. It is because He loves them so much and He want them to come to Him and accept the gift He is about to give them.
- We must also be aware that our current world is much the same and follows the same pattern even after being given the history of His first coming, the gift He has given us, the obvious failure of our self-guided lifestyle and the warning of His righteous judgement in His next and final return.

Notes

Parts taken from Blue Letter Bible and the commentary of David Guzik

An invitation to join us

This study guide is provided in the hope that others will be moved to consider the sermon, let their mind wander to questions it might raise and thoughts they wish to remember and apply to their personal life. If anyone reading the guide cares to ask a question or share their thoughts regarding the subject, please e-mail the authors at mensbreakfast@therivercolorado.org . If you would like to participate in the building of the study guide, please let us know and we'll make provisions to have you join us via phone and/or Zoom