

42 John 8:12 - 20

REVIEW / INTRODUCTION

Beginning in John Chapter 7 we have been studying the account of Jesus at the Festival of Tabernacles in Jerusalem. This Festival was Israel's celebration of God's protection and guidance as they left slavery in Egypt by walking through a great desert. God's glory showed up in this desert as a great light in the form of a pillar of fire and pillar of smoke to guide them.

The festival started with a **light ceremony**. Giant lamps lit up the temple court and its glow could be seen through all of Jerusalem. These lamps provided light so tens of thousands could worship into the night. They were the lamps that illuminated worship for Israel. It was in this context that Jesus spoke to those gathered for worship...

READING THE TEXT

¹² ... saying, "I am the **light of the world**. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the

light of life.” ¹³ So the Pharisees said to him, “You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true.” ¹⁴ Jesus answered, “Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. ¹⁵ You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. ¹⁶ Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. ¹⁷ In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true. ¹⁸ I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me.” ¹⁹ They said to him therefore, “Where is your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.” ²⁰ These words he spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple; but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

PREACHING THE TEXT

¹² Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Jesus uses the spectacular imagery of the Light Ceremony to reveal His identity as God’s Son. Jesus is the light of Israel and the light of the entire world. He provides light for everyone in the world that comes to Him.

If Jesus is the light of the world then those who follow Him will be known in their circles as people who shine light into darkness. If you are a believer you have a great calling that comes with your faith in Christ. You are called to reflect the glory of Jesus Christ into this dark world.

2 Corinthians 4:6 (ESV)

⁶ For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

So God's plan is to shine the light of His Son Jesus Christ into this world to expose the darkness and show the great life that is offered through His glorious radiant Son, Jesus Christ. How does He shine light into darkness. Partly by giving you the light of God's glory! This glory comes as you seek the face of Jesus Christ.

STORY: There is a couple that has recently received Jesus Christ. God is in the process of remaking their marriage and more importantly they have received Jesus Christ. When the husband first came into my office he was deeply wounded. His eyes and face had the look of sadness and hopelessness. About a week after He prayed to receive Jesus Christ he walked into my office and I was shocked. His face was glowing as He radiated life and light and hope and joy. This is the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. His friends and family must notice. Not everyone loves the light. Some will mock or dismiss the transformation of this

couple. But those who seek light will notice and be encouraged by what God has done in their lives.

WALKING IN DARKNESS

Believer, you have a high calling. Walk in the light as Jesus is in the light. Let Jesus transform your thinking and emotions and will. Let Him be a light to the world around through your passion for Him.

I want to hone in on this spiritual battle between darkness and light. We are seeing people that were bound up in darkness for years or decades and Jesus is shining light into their souls. So let's look at some of those dynamics as we find them in scripture.

HERE BUT NOT YET

We know that Jesus Christ came into this world as a great light. He came to set captives free. Their minds were darkened and He set them free from Satan's lies by shining the light of the truth into their hearts and minds.

Inaugurated Eschatology Light Wars With Darkness

John 1:4, 9 (ESV)

⁴ In him was life, and **the life was the light** of men.

⁹ The **true light**, which gives **light to everyone**, was coming into the world.

John 3:19-21 (ESV)

¹⁹ And this is the judgment: **the light has come into the world**, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who **does wicked things hates the light** and does **not come to the light**, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹

But **whoever does what is true comes to the light**, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

CLASH OF TWO KINGDOMS (Light and Darkness)

There is an ongoing battle between light and darkness. There is a clash of two kingdoms. Jesus has come to give life to those who love and seek Him. But some people treasure their sin and fixations and addictions more than they treasure Jesus and the life and

light that He brings. There is a war; a spiritual war going on. Every soul in this room has been affected by this clash of the kingdom of darkness with the kingdom of light. When Jesus comes and shines His light into our hearts and removes the grip of the Devil upon our minds the following is true;

Colossians 1:13 (ESV)

¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,

TRANSFERRED TO THE KINGDOM OF JESUS

So when we were saved we went from belonging to one kingdom, the kingdom of satan to the kingdom of God's beloved Son. We become citizens of a new kingdom. Our passport to hell is revoked and torn up and we get another passport that identifies us as a citizen of heaven. We belong to God. We serve at the bequest of God's Son. Heaven is our home and we are just passing through this world of darkness.

Ephesians 2:19 (esv)

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow **citizens with the saints** and members of the household of God,

When someone becomes a soldier or citizen of this country they swear to defend and protect the constitution of the United States. When we are born again we proclaim that Jesus Christ is our God and we are His people. We take orders from Him. He has the final say in all matters of our life.

Philippians 3:20(esv)

But our **citizenship is in heaven**, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

In practical terms what does it mean that we are citizens of heaven? It means that we must live as if we are in a foreign land. Our home country is heaven. And we are visitors in this world. Whether you are from China or Liberia or South America you are citizen of heaven first and your

secondary citizenship is the United States or China or Liberia.

So if my king tells me to do something that the president or Congress does not like I will obey my King Jesus. He is our first loyalty. When we become citizens of heaven we must act like ambassadors who are here to represent our King Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5:20(esv)

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

So we are ambassadors sent by God to whatever country we were born in. And our mission is to implore people to get right with God and sign up for the Kingdom. We want to gain more citizens of heaven.

A WAR LIKE FOOTING

We are citizens of heaven who have been sent to this country as Ambassadors of Jesus Christ. And we have

been sent into a war zone. There is a great battle for the minds and heart of people that rages on.

What do you think would happen if Israel sent an Ambassador to the United States; but he never represented the King? He came and lived in luxury. He purchased lots of toys. Went out and drank like a fish, picked up prostitutes went to lots of ball games and sailing and baseball games. But He never went to the Whitehouse. Never tried to advance the agenda of the King and government of Israel.

Sadly, when we allow darkness to and worldly thinking to capture our mind we become the Ambassador for Jesus Christ who is avoiding his or her high calling and purpose. We are here to advance the agenda of our King. We can not live in this dark world and hide the light that has been given us. **We are Ambassadors of Jesus Christ and we are at war with the darkness!**

As long as there is darkness in their world we must stay on a war-like footing and act like Ambassadors of light.

Matthew 6:9 (esv)

⁹ Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

¹⁰ Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

I want to finish up by looking at the dynamics of the kingdom and this spiritual war of light and darkness by looking in Matthew 16.

Matthew 16:18 (esv)

Peter Confesses Jesus as the Christ

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter

replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

²¹ From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took

him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” ²³

But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

End Times The Lord As Our Light

Revelation 21:23-24 (ESV)

²³ *And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and **its lamp is the Lamb.** ²⁴ By **its light** will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it,*

TAKING IT HOME

1. Are you the Ambassador that is on vacation?
2. Jesus is the light of the world. Are there areas of your life where you need more light?

3. Wherever you go and whatever you do will you go as an Ambassador of light?