

I AM the Light of The World

2-25-18

#2 - I AM Series

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2 Married Couples Conf - final day to sign up. *Learn to...* is a theme of all the things that Chad & Kathy had to *learn to do* to *save & keep & sustain* their marriage. *Learn to forgive, learn to die to self, learn to glorify God in our marriages, etc.*
- B. Slide3 REAL Tues - this Tues 7-9pm. *Popcorn Pride & Prejudice.*

II. Slide4-6 Prayer:

III. Intro: I AM the Light of The World

- A. Recap: There are 23 Ἐγώ εἰμι statements (very unusual structure *I Am, I Am*) in John. 7 are followed by a *metaphor*. Last week we looked at *I Am the bread of Life*. And grammar structure is reversed, “The Light of the world... *it is I*”.
- This is *Jesus in the Present Tense*. This is *Jesus*, not as a distant deity but as the *living God, the great I AM*.
- B. Slide7 I grew up with Doberman's & showed them in 7th & 8th grade. One thing we had to do when they were puppy's was to *have their ears cropped*. 1st having them cut, then a long process of tapping them around a small post, over & over again weekly.
- But there was nothing as beautiful as a Dobie's ears *standing at attention*.
 - When Jesus announces that *He is the Light of the world*, this is how I picture the Jews that were listening in, with *their ears fully erect*. *He had their attention*.
 - So what was it? When they heard this what did it make them think of?

IV. Slide8-10 LET THERE BE LIGHT (Gen.1:1-5) *let there be light*

- A. God's 1st spoken words. God's 1st noun. God's 1st creative word...produced *Light*.
- B. *Light comes from God*. And its creation was an immediate victory, because it *dispelled darkness*.

V. Slide11 LIGHT AS A FIGURE OF SPEECH

- A. Contrasted w/darkness. Good/evil.

- B. Slide12 Jn.3:19-21 *And this is the condemnation, that **the light** has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the **light** and does not come to the **light**, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the **truth** comes to the **light**, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.*
1. **Light** = life. knowledge. holiness.
 2. **Darkness** = death. ignorance. sin. [*children of darkness* - a moral deficiency, or corruption of the human heart]
- C. So light reveals darkness. Light reveals **the cause of darkness**. Light **dispels** darkness.

VI. Slide13 JOHN'S LIGHT THEME

- A. Jesus' coming into the world was a dawning of a new day. Mt.4:16; Is.42:7 *The people who sat in darkness have seen **a great light**, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death **Light** has **dawned**.*
- B. Slide14 I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD (Jn.8:12)
- C. He says it here at the end of the story of the women caught in adultery...*but why this imagery?* [ch's 7-9 go together]
1. We go all the way back to 7:2...it's *the Feast of Tabernacles*. (*Feast of Ingathering*)
- D. Slide15,16 Feast of Tabernacles - occurs in Fall (also called Succoth/booths) Lev.23:33-43
1. Think of it as a **National Campout**. [It commemorated the days when the Israelites wandered in the wilderness & lived in tents/booths]
 2. **Daily**, during this 7 day feast, water was drawn from the *Pool of Siloam*. A **priest**, accompanied by a procession of **people & musicians**, would go & fill a *golden pitcher* from the pool. It was carried back through the **Water Gate**, while the people recited Is.12:3 *with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation*. The water was carried up to the Temple altar & **poured out** as an offering to God.
- E. Slide17 The Jews, at a later time, introduced **2 appendages** to the original festival from Lev:
1. **Drawing water from the Pool of Siloam, and pouring it upon the altar**, as a memorial of the water God brought forth, from the rock in Horeb.

- a) **Daily**, during this 7 day feast, water was drawn from the *Pool of Siloam*. A **priest**, accompanied by a procession of **people & musicians**, would go & fill a *golden pitcher* from the **pool**. It was carried back through the **Water Gate**, while the people recited Is.12:3 *with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation*. The water was carried up to the Temple altar & **poured out** as an offering to God.
- b) Thus Jesus cried out (37) *If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me & drink*.
2. **Lighting the lamps/candelabra/menorah at night**, a memorial of *the pillar of fire by night* during their wanderings in the wilderness. [Easton's Bible dictionary]
- a) At night during the week, the priests lit **4 large candelabra's** in the court of the women, & the glow from the light could be seen across the city.¹
- b) **Thus** the connection in 8:12. *Maybe the lights were still burning* (8:2).
- c) **Or even more spectacular** if it was just **after** the feast...& the illumination no longer took place...the **contrast** between *light & darkness* would have been *equally impressive*.
- d) Jesus wanted them to have **lasting blessing in the present tense**. God was willing **that very day** to give them *the water of life & the light of life...Himself!*
- F. **...Light of Life** - **Or**, the light that **gives** life. **Or**, the light that **leads to** life. **The light** that **causes people to really live**. **The light** that **shows people how they may live**.²
- G. **Shall not walk in darkness** - **Or**, will **never walk** where it is **dark**. **Or**, will **never walk** in places where they **cannot see**.
1. **Jesus is the Light of the world...Why?** That we might **follow Him** & have our **life enlightened**.
- H. **Slide18,19 I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD** (Jn.1:1-9)
- I. John started this theme earlier. **Read** Jn.1:1-9 **Light 7 x's**.
- J. It was *the light of Jesus* that temporarily blinded Paul.
- K. It was *the light of Jesus* on the *Mount of Transfiguration*, that for a few moments the deity of Christ *burst through his veil of humanity*. His countenance changed, His clothes **glowed**, a brilliant light enveloped Him, & the disciples saw it.

¹ Warren Wiersbe, Jesus in the Present Tense.

² USB Handbook: John (Logos Jn.8:12 note)

1. Slide20a *And He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.* (Mt.17:2)
 - a) Slide20b This was **Refulgence!** *shining brightly, shining out, expressing intensive force*
2. But this was not like Moses who **reflected** the glory of God from up on Sinai. But this was not an inherent glory or an intrinsic glory of Moses.
3. What color is an orange? (orange) What color is an orange in the dark? (black)
 - a) You must have **light** to bounce off the orange, to see color.
 - b) It's purity/beauty is seen/found in the **light** itself. Orange as a color does not exist in that piece of fruit. The only time an orange is orange is when the light is on it. Because color does not belong to *shirts or blouses or shoes or things*. The colors of the rainbow are found in **light**.
 - c) What happens is certain substances will **reflect or refract** certain colors that are in the prism of light, others are **absorbed**. So when light bounces off the orange it appears to our eyes that it is orange, but without the source of light *everything is black, there is no color*. [rainbow, seeing the beauty within the light]
4. Jesus did not **reflect** this glory, but revealed His glory, it came from **within**.
 - a) God is Light. 1Jn.1:5 **God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.** (i.e. His holiness)
(1)*No darkness in Him...*only clarity & understanding.

L. Slide20c John moved from his **Light** teaching General to Specific:

1. Jn.1:9 is **general**: *That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.*
 - a) Like, Sheet Lightning (or *intracloud* lightening) lights up the sky w/a *sheet* of light.
 - b) *It's beautiful & grand, but doesn't strike anywhere.*
2. Jn.8:12 is **specific**: *I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.*
 - a) Like, a Forked Flash, it strikes **somewhere**. (i.e. an individual follows him & is enlightened)

M. Slide21,22 **AS LONG AS I AM IN THE WORLD I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD** Jn.9:5

N. Read Jn.9:1-7 - In the healing of the man blind from birth.

1. They asked these questions out of **curiosity not compassion**.
 - a) Like *medieval theologians* who argued over how many angels could fit on the head of a pin, these **fledgling seminarians** were moved to *theological controversy rather than tenderhearted compassion*.³ [which do you get more excited about?]
 - b) Jesus **saw** a man; the **disciples asked** about him.
 - c) To the **disciples** the blind man was the occasion for *theological speculation*; To **Jesus** he was *a human being* to be **pitied & helped**. *Even beggars are dear to God.*
 2. Jesus gave giving him **sight or light to see** (9:7).
- O. **But** here He adds *the timing* of this...as long as He's in the world. [which hints to the passing of the light-torch later]

VII.Slide23a **LAMB LIGHT (Rev.21:23)** *The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The **Lamb** is its **light**.*

- A. **Slide23b** So from *the beginning* chapter of Genesis to *the end* the last chapter in *Rev22:5* *There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for **the Lord God** gives them **light**.*

VIII.Slide24,25a **LAMP LIGHT (Mt.5:14-16)** *you are the light of the world*

- A. 2 Cor.4:6 *For it is the **God** who commanded **light** to shine out of darkness, who has **shone in our hearts** to give the **light** of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*
1. As in *physical* creation so in *spiritual* creation.
- B. **Slide25b** 2 Pet.1:19 *And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a **light** that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and **the morning star rises in your hearts**.*
- C. **We are**, by our very union with Christ, *the light of the world*.
1. **As light**, we are to **shine** in the world around us. If you do not shine, you are not fulfilling your function; worse than that, you are detracting.

³ Chuck Swindoll

a) Don't be content with *becoming* a light... *let it shine*... don't hide it under a bushel/ basket.

2. Even ***the smallest light*** can be seen by many.

a) During WWII they had blackouts because of enemy planes going overhead.

The glow of 1 cigarette could be seen for a long distance.

b) Remember, *wherever it is the darkest, is where you can shine the brightest.* (eg. match lit in Kings Canyon's Boyden Cave).

c) You may have been complaining, *I'm the only believer at work, at school, at home, in my neighborhood, on my team. Now after reading this, is it then a coincidence that Jesus has you in such a dark place...to be a light? His light?*

D. What an honor then to be **His light**.

1. *Slide26 Lets be Stain Glass Men/Women.* eg. my Catholic church growing up in Whittier. (St. Gregory the Great) it had a *stain glass window* behind the altar, at the end of both side wings, & about a dozen up and down the center.

I remember as a kid every Sunday staring at one of them.

a) *Slide27* Picture now **Jesus (the Light)** shining thru **us (the stain glass)** thus becoming *beautiful & colorful* to many that gaze upon us, upon our lives.

b) *Jesus didn't say you are the Lips of the world, but the Lights of the world.*

(1) May Jesus *shine through us.*

(2) May our *holy lives* dispel darkness, repel decay, & give light to those around us.