

I Am The Light of The World

Series: John

Title: No Power Shortage With Jesus

Text: John 8:12-20

Take your Bibles and turn to John chapter 8. John chapter 8 beginning with Vs. 12.

There are notes in your bulletin and I invite you to follow along. Our subject: ~~NO POWER~~ *I Am The Light*

of The World ~~SHORTAGE WITH JESUS.~~ *This is the second main event that cause*

the authorities to want the crucifixion of Jesus ~~That is refreshing isn't it? I mean in the light of the current high~~

Lord. Amen?

to be upset with Jesus
Please STAY

(John 8:12-20)

(Prayer)

There are two things that took place at the Feast of tabernacles that cause the authorities to be upset with Jesus. One, was the pouring out of the water. And we learned about that in John chapter 7. The second thing that was done, which is still practiced by Othodox Jews today is the lighting of the candelabra. And I believe that in John 8:12 our Lord is doing the same thing He did in John chapter 7. He is referring to the main event that captivated the interest of the Jewish audience. And I believe that Jesus spoke these words of Vs. 12, "I am the light of the world" as the Jewish Priests were lighting all those candelabra's during the Feast of Tabernacles.

(1) Now, let's look at this claim that Jesus made in vs. 12. When He said, "I am the light of the world, I believe He was saying ~~two~~ ^{two} things. ~~Two~~ ^{Two} things that I would like you to know.

(1) Number one, The recognition of this claim. The golden candelabra was ceremonially lit during the Feast of Tabernacles. And this lighting of the candelabra was a remainder of the pillar of fire that guided the children of Israel during their travels in the wilderness. I trust you remember the story. There was a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

So, what a great opportunity for Jesus to proclaim his diety. And I don't think it is wrong to say that Jesus spoke these words in vs 12 as the Priest, ^{was} lighting the ceremonial candelabra. And the people knew what Jesus was claiming. They knew that he was claiming to be the pillar of fire of the O.T. The great light of the entire world. So, the recognition of that claim was very important. ~~It was very appropriate in the midst of this Feast~~ ^{New} ~~When~~ Jesus said: "I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD", I believe He is teaching us four things. He is teaching us four great principles.

(1F) Number one, Jesus is teaching us that the world is in darkness and needs light.

There is no question about that. When Jesus said, "I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD", he taught that the world is in darkness and needs His light. I John 5:19 says that the whole world is lying in darkness.

You know, it is amazing the answers that people will give to solve the current problems that we have in the world. And the more we hear from them, the darker it seems to become. The world is in darkness and people are blind. But, that darkness is not simply the mental inability of people to understand what is going on. That darkness is referring to sin. The Bible teaches that fact. And the whole world is lying in darkness because they are lying under the captivity and bondage of sin. And sin is blinding their minds even to understanding what is going on in the world.

Dear friends, the moment you say that Jesus is the light of the World, it assumes that the world is in darkness and desperately needs His light.

(2F) Secondly, it means that the light of Christ is sufficient for the whole world. Jesus said; "I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD." Not just, the light of those who are going to respond to me. But, the light of the entire world. Christ's light is sufficient for every single man, woman, and child that has ever lived or every could live. It is sufficient for the whole world. No matter how great the darkness, no matter how great the people are in darkness, His light is sufficient for every one. ~~There isn't anyone left out...~~ PRAISE GOD... He is the light of the world.

(3F) The third thing that Jesus is teaching us is that He is the promised Messiah.

You ask: "HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?" Take your Bibles, please and turn in the O.T. to the book of Isaiah. Isaiah chapter 49 verse 6..Isaiah 49 verse 6....(Read Vs 6)

Now, the whole issue of Isaiah 49 is that the Messiah is going to bring salvation. So, when Jesus said, "I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD," there is no question, especially in the minds of those who heard Him as to what He was claiming. He was claiming to be the Messiah. And when the Messiah brings light, He is bringing salvation to people who are in darkness. And that is the whole point.

Now, will you turn, please, to the Gospel of Luke chapter 2. At the time of our Lord's birth, there was a definite reference made to Jesus in terms of this O.T. prophecy of the Messiah being the Light who will bring salvation to the world. Luke chapter 2 verse 29. This, by the way, is spoken by a very devoted man by the name of Simeon. Simeon had been praying that God would reveal to him the coming of the Messiah. And can you imagine the joy in his heart when he held the baby Jesus in his arms? Vs. 28 says that he blessed God and said in Vs. 29
(Read Vs. 29-33)

Isn't that great? This man, Simeon, spoke a tremendous message of hope dealing with the coming Messiah. And he was holding the baby Jesus in his arms when he said: "A LIGHT OF REVELATION TO THE GENTILES, AND THE GLORY OF THY PEOPLE ISRAEL."

Oh! Dear friends, I hope you understand. When Jesus said, "I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD" at the very moment they were lighting those candles at the Feast of Tabernacle, people knew what he was saying. He was claiming to be the promised Messiah.

You say, "NOW, PASTOR, THAT IS JUST YOUR INTERPRETATION." Oh! No!. Because in John 8:20 it says that "no one seized him, because His hour had not yet come." You see, those folks wanted to kill him. They knew what he was claiming. Because, here, again He was claiming to be ^{The Messiah} God when he said, "I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD."

(4) Now, come back to John 8:12, please. The fourth principle that I believe Jesus is

teaching us when he said, I am the light of the world, is that He is God and absolutely sinless.

You say, "WELL, HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT, PASTOR?" Oh, I am glad you ask. Turn, please, to I John. I John chapter 1. In I John chapter 1, we learn that the principle of light is an attribute of God, himself. But, even more than that, it deals with the essential nature and being of God. Do you remember back in Genesis chapter 1, God said, "Let there be light and there was light." Well, there is a principle of light throughout the Bible that is teaching us moral and spiritual truth. But light, itself, is not only an attribute and characteristic of God, but it is his essential nature. There are many phrases in the Bible which expresses that essential nature of God.

Such as: God is love. It doesn't mean that God is merely love, which He is, or merely love itself and nothing else, which he is not. But, he is love in terms of nature. God has to love you because he is love by way of nature and essence and being. And the same thing is true about light. God is light.

Now, look at I John chapter 1 verse 5, "AND THIS IS THE MESSAGE WE HAVE HEARD FROM HIM AND ANNOUNCE TO YOU, THAT GOD IS LIGHT, AND IN HIM THERE IS NO DARKNESS AT ALL."

Now, God certainly illuminates people. He gives people light in terms of understanding. But, dear friends, that is not what is being said in this verse. God certainly has the attribute of light in the manifestation of His beauty and radiance and person. But that is not what is being said. Vs. 5 is dealing with the nature of God. GOD IS LIGHT. And the teaching of Vs. 5 is that "in him there is no darkness at all." WHY? Because He is God. He is light. And there is no darkness or sin in Him at all.

And so Jesus is claiming to be God when He makes the statement; and, also, he is claiming to be absolutely sinless. Because the pure light of God's nature has no darkness. There is no sin involved at all.

Now, look at Vs. 6: "If we say that we have fellowship with Him." That is, we say we are saved. We say that we are a Christian. If we say that, but our life style shows we are sinning as a habit of life, then the Bible says that we are lying and we are not practicing the truth. In other words, we are not really saved. Because when we are living in the light, the blood of Jesus cleanse us from all sin.

Does that mean that I never sin? No! It means that as a habit of life I am not practicing a life style of sin. As I habit of life I am practicing a life style of Godly living. If I do sin, I confess it. And I do not do it anymore. This dear friends, is a wonderful principle to apply to your life.

O.K. back to John chapter 8. First of all we looked at the recognition of this claim that Jesus made. ~~Then, secondly,~~ ^{And the} we looked at the four principles involved in that claim.

(3) ^{secondly} ~~third~~ Now, what about the results of believing this claim? When Jesus said, "I am the light of the world", and you believe that statement, what results will be evident in your life? Vs. 12 mention two results.

(1) Number one, you will be rescued from darkness. Vs. 12 says that "he who follows Jesus will not walk in darkness. As a habit of life you will not continue to sin. In Colossians chapter 1 verse 13 we learn a tremendous truth concerning how a person is delivered from darkness. It says that God delivered us from the domain or power of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved son, in whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sin". Isn't that tremendous?

The first result ~~is~~ ⁱⁿ believing the claim that Jesus is the light of the world is being rescued from darkness, which is sin. And the means by which that is accomplished is through the precious blood of Jesus. Praise God.

Hebrews 9:22 says that without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin. This involves the issue of death. So, in order to get out of darkness and out of sin, is by believing in the death of Jesus Christ.

Now, the problem is that many people just don't face the issue. To agree that Jesus died is really not the issue at all. Everybody dies. And ~~there~~^{there} have been good men who have died in the past. It is not simply the issue that Jesus died. It is what was accomplished when He died.

Now, the Bible says that when Jesus died He shed His blood. But, once again, let's face the ~~facts~~^{issue}, Other folks have shed their blood when they died..RIGHT? So, once again, I ask you.. WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

You says, "Well, ~~this~~^{the} issue is the sinless life of Jesus." O.K., that is true. But, the issue is more than the sinless life of Jesus. LET ME TRY AND ILLUSTRATE.

Let's suppose for a moment that ~~Brain~~^{Steve} and I were standing at the Great White Throne Judgement seat of God. Now, God is going to judge us. And ~~Brain~~^{Steve} has really been a bad boy all of his life. I mean, he is just filled with sin....rotten to the core...And he is standing there before God. And he knows that he deserves to die...And God says, ~~Brain~~^{Steve}, I have got to put you to death because my law says that a soul that sinneth it shall die. Whether one sin or a thousand sins. It only takes one lie to make a liar. And James 2:10 says that if we stumble in one point, we are guilty of all the law.

So, ~~Brain~~^{Steve} is standing there and he knows that he deserves to die. And God assures him that that is true.

Now, I am standing next to ~~Brain~~^{Steve}. And let's suppose for a moment that I have never sinned. I mean..not once..in my entire life. I am sinless.

Now, for those of you who are visiting...THAT IS NOT TRUE. So, please don't cleck it all out with my wife.

But, let's suppose for a moment that I have never sinned. There is not one sin in my life. And I am standing before God. And I have a special place in my heart for ~~Brain~~^{Steve}.

So, I says to God, "You know, God, I don't have to die for my sin because I have no sin."

And God says, "That is right...you can go free."

Then I say, "Well, God, I love ~~Brain~~^{Steve}. So, why don't you take my life. And let ~~Brain~~^{Steve} go free."

Now, to be just, God would really have to do that. That is right! So, you see, that would be a possibility. If I had never committed a sin, and am not worthy of judgement myself, then, I could substitute my life for ^{Steve} ~~Joe~~. And ^{Steve} ~~Joe~~ would go free. No matter how much sin he had committed. No matter how bad he was. He would still go free. I mean, how many times can ^{a person} ~~God~~ kill somebody? ... You see? ... Are there degrees of death? ... No way. When you are dead, you are dead. Are there degrees of sin? No, ^{Now what so ever} ~~there isn't~~. Whether one sin or a thousand, it is still sin.

Dear Friends, how we need to face the issue of the Gospel. Don't try to compare yourself with other people. By saying, "WELL, I AM NOT AS BAD AS JOHN DOE. OR, I AM BETTER THAN SO AND SO." Oh, no... That is not the issue at all... DEATH IS DEATH. WHETHER ONE SIN OR A THOUSAND. DEATH IS THE PENTALTY OF SIN.

The wages of sin is death - Eternal separation from God

Now, I can understand how, if I had never sinned, I could substitute my life. How one man, sinless, which Jesus was, could substitute himself for one other person. I can understand that. But, let me ask you: How can someone who died ^{Two Thousand} ~~nineteen hundred~~ years ago substitute his life for the whole world?

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How is that possible? ^{Dear} Friends, there is only one answer. And that is that Jesus had to be God. As God's infinite life equals the sum total of all human lives that He has ever created. There isn't any life here in this ^{room} ~~auditorium~~, ~~there isn't a single part of life~~ that isn't the direct result of the life of Jesus. That is what the Bible teaches. In John 1:4 it says that in Christ was life and that life was the light of all men. Everyone who has ever come into the world has received that light.

Now, I know that is a little heavy. But, it is so important. And besides, some of you may want the meat of the gospel and not just the milk.

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When Jesus said, I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD, He certainly meant that He was sinless. And He meant that there was no darkness in Him. But, the real issue is His deity. Jesus is God. And God is ^{Life} ~~light~~. And His infinite life includes the sum total of all human life. You have life. I have life because God is life. I don't have any life apart from the existence of God. I wonder, have we molded God down to something smaller than the Bible says He is?

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All life comes from God. It is God's life in all the world. There is a physical life. It is God's life. There is a spiritual life. It is God's life. If it is God's life, there is an eternal life. All of it is God's life.

Dear friends, this is a tremendous principle. Because, you see, on the cross God could substitute his own infinite life for every man, woman and child that has ever lived or will live. And no matter who you are, the first result in believing the claim of Christ is that you are rescued immediately from the consequences of sin...which is death and eternal separation from God. And that happens immediately because Jesus has already paid for all sin. All sin that you could possibly think of or commit. And dear friends, that is a tremendous and wonderful principle to live by. *It will free you to be the person God wants you to be*

(2F) The second result of believing that Jesus is light is the reception of God's life.

Jesus said in Vs 12, "you shall have the light of life." Literally it says, THE LIFE." YOU SHALL HAVE THE LIGHT OF THE LIFE." Meaning: spiritual, eternal life is given the moment you believe that Jesus is the Light of the world.

Everybody has physical life. But, you don't have spiritual life and eternal life until you believe in Jesus Christ. *Epht 2:1 says we are dead in our trespasses and sins* ~~As romans 10:9 says, "If you confess with your mouth"~~ *But Coras 10:4* Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved." Saved, not because of anything that you have ever done, but because Jesus substituted himself for you. And you receive God's life the moment you believe his claim that He is the light of the World.

Now, I know that most of you, here, today, are Christians. You believe that Jesus is the light. But, dear Christians friends, I believe at times we ~~take~~ *Take* these wonderful truths for granite. And God sort of slips from his throne. *Take* Let's put him back on the throne of our life. He is the light of the World.

here and if you are ~~here~~ *here*, today, and you have never confessed your sin and ~~received~~ *Believed in* the light of the Word, then I invite you to do so today. Let the light of Jesus fill your life.

LET'S CLOSE IN PRAYER