

“The Light Of The World”
John 8:12

Introduction:

1. I Don't Know About The Rest Of you:
 - But - This Time Of Year:
 - Is Hard For Me To Get Used To:
 - Because Of Just How Early:
 - It Gets Dark!
 - This Afternoon - The Sun Will Set:
 - At 5:25 - And - This Will Keep Getting Earlier:
 - Until Winter Sets In:
 - On December 21st!
2. I Can't Imagine What Its Like:
 - In Alaska!
 - Where - In Some Places:
 - The Sun Never Even Rises Over The Horizon:
 - For A Minute!
 - But - Its Amazing How:
 - Our Moods Can Even Reflect:
 - The Amount Of Daylight We Get:
 - In Seasons Like This!
3. Light Affects Life:
 - In More Ways Than:
 - Then We Are Often Aware Of!
 - And - As We Turn Back In Our Bibles This Morning:
 - To John 8 - That Is One Reason Why:
 - I Believe - Jesus Makes:

1. *His Great Proclamation: (As The Light Of The World)*

- In The One Verse:
 - That We Will Look At Today!
 - And - That Verse Is - John 8:12 - Which May Be:
 - One Of The Most Well-Known Verses:
 - In All The World!
 - Ranking Up There With:
 - John 3:16!
- Because - It Is In This Verse:
 - That We Read These Words:
 - “Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life!”
- Jesus Said These Words - And:
 - Made This Great Proclamation:
 - When He Was Teaching In The Temple!
 - Just After:
 - He Forgave The Adulterous Woman:
 - In The First Part Of This Chapter! (8:1-11) - And Also:
 - On The Heels Of:
 - The Feast Of Tabernacles:
 - That We Learned About In Chapter 7 - Which Was One Of The Most Celebrated Feasts:
 - In The Jewish Calendar!
 - And So - The Setting Of Jesus' Saying:
 - I Think - Will Help Us Appreciate:
 - This Great Proclamation & Claim:
 - Even More!
 - That He Is - “The Light Of The World!”
 - Because - He Said These Words:

- To Explain:
 - What He Just Did For:
 - The Woman Who Was Taken In Adultery!
 - He Had Just:
 - Focused His Eyes & Grace Upon Her:
 - So That He Might:
 - Forgive Her & Free Her!
 - By Saying To Her:
 - 8:11 - “Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more!”
 - Now, When The Woman Did “Go” - After Being:
 - Forgiven By The Lord Himself!
 - I’m Sure The Rest Of Those Who Were Left There:
 - Had Some Questions:
 - About What Jesus Did!
 - Questions About His Authority:
 - To Forgive Someone:
 - Who Was Clearly Guilty Of Serious Sin:
 - Against God!
 - *Who Was He:*
 - To Do Something Like That? Or:
 - Questions About His Ability:
 - To Free Someone:
 - Who Had Been Arrested By The Jewish Leaders There In Jerusalem:
 - Without Any Consequences For Her Sin!
 - *Just Who Did Jesus Think He Was?*
 - To Answer Their Unspoken Questions:
 - John Tells Us Again:
 - In 8:12 - “Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life!”
 - *This Is Who Jesus Is!*
 - He Is “The Light Of The World!”
 - And So - He Possessed:
 - All The Authority He Needed:
 - To Forgive That Woman! As Well As:
 - All The Ability:
 - To Free That Woman, So That She Could “Go, And Sin No More!”
 - But - Jesus Also Made This Great Proclamation:
- To Encourage:
 - Those Who Just Came Off - What Was Probably:
 - A Mountain-Top Experience:
 - During The Feast Of Tabernacles!
 - During This Feast:
 - The Jews Adopted Several Rituals:
 - To Make It Even More Meaningful:
 - As They Commemorated & Celebrated God’s Provision For His People!
 - In Chapter 7 - Jesus Referred To:
 - The Water Ritual:
 - To Invite The People:
 - To Come To Him & Believe In Him!
 - In 7:37 - “In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink!”
 - Well - Here In Chapter 8 - Jesus Probably Refers To:
 - The Famous Light Ritual:
 - To Make His Great Proclamation That:
 - He Is “The Light Of The World!”
 - Because - During The Feast Of The Tabernacles:
 - Four Great, Golden Lamps:
 - Were Set Up In The Temple!

- And They Were Lifted Up High Enough:
 - So That The Fire & Light From Those Golden Lamps:
 - Could Be Seen Above The Walls Of The Temple Complex:
 - And Could Light Up Almost The Entire City!
- And - Each Night - Large Golden Bowls:
 - Were Filled With Oil:
 - To Keep The Light Of Those Lamps Shining:
 - All Night Long!
- And So - The Celebration:
 - At The Feast Of Tabernacles:
 - Would Go On For 24 Hours A Day - For An Entire Week!
- But - On The Last Day Of The Feast:
 - The Fire Of The Lamps Were Extinguished:
 - And - The Lamps Themselves:
 - Were Taken Down:
 - Until The Next Year!
 - And - Just Like We Often Experience:
 - After Our Own Celebrations:
 - Like Thanksgiving & Christmas & New Years:
 - There Could Be A Big Let-Down For The People! (**IE:** Trees!)
 - And The People Would Then Have To Go Home:
 - And Go Back To The Routines:
 - Of Their Every-Day Lives!
- And So - It Is At That Time:
 - Jesus Seeks To Encourage His Audience:
 - That There Is A Light:
 - That Is Brighter & Stronger & Longer-Lasting Than:
 - Any Other Light They Had Ever Known!
 - The Light Of Those Lamps & Even The Light Of The Sun!
 - So Again - In 8:12 - John Tells Us:
 - “Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life!”
 - O - How Those People:
 - Needed His Light!
 - The Woman Needed Jesus:
 - To Shine His Light:
 - On The Darkness Of Her Sin! And:
 - The Crowd Needed Jesus:
 - To Shine His Light:
 - In The Darkness Of Their Souls!
 - And - The World Still Needs:
 - Jesus’ Light!
 - We Still Need Jesus’ Light!
 - Because - Through Just These Words:
 - Jesus Reveals:

2. ***His Great Power – As The Light Of The World!***

- “I Am The Light Of The World!”
 - Jesus Said! And:
 - Once Again - We Can See What Those Temple Officers Meant:
 - When They Said Back In 7:46 - That:
 - “Never Man Spake Like This Man!”
 - Because - In These Few Words:
 - Jesus Revealed That He Is:
- The Exclusive Light:
 - That This World Needs!
 - When The Sun Sets:
 - We Need Light:

- To See By & To Work By!
- **IE**: Light Up The House!
- But - When The Sun Rises:
 - We Need Its Light:
 - To Do Even More!
- Light Affects Our Lives:
 - In More Ways Than:
 - We Know!
 - But - There Is One Light:
 - That We Need More Than:
 - The Light Of A Million Suns!
 - And That Is The Light Of The One:
 - Who Is & Gives Life!
 - The Lord Jesus Christ!
- And So - When Jesus Proclaims:
 - "**I Am** The Light Of The World!"
 - He Does So In:
 - "The Style Of Deity!" (Morris)
 - He Uses A Phrase:
 - That Was Well-Known To The Jews Of His Day:
 - To Identify Himself In Terms Of:
 - The God Of Israel!
 - Even - The Great "I Am" God:
 - Who Appeared To Moses:
 - In Exodus 3 - In The Burning Bush!
 - It Was There - God Said To Moses:
 - "I Am That I Am! This Is My Name For Ever, And This Is My Memorial Unto All Generations!" (3:13-15)
 - There Are Seven Times:
 - In The Gospel Of John - Where:
 - Jesus Uses This Phrase:
 - To Identify Himself As The Ever-Living God!
 - Back In Chapter 6 - Jesus First Used It:
 - When He Said:
 - "I Am The Bread Of Life!"
 - Here In Chapter 8:
 - Is The Second Time He Uses It!
 - "I Am The Light Of The World!"
 - And - Since It Is The Great "I Am" God:
 - Who Created Light In The First Place!
 - Then Jesus - As The Great "I Am" Himself:
 - Possesses The Greatest Power:
 - As "The Light Of The World!"
 - He Is The Exclusive Light:
 - That This World Needs! That We Need!
 - Jesus Also Reveals That He Is:
 - The Effective Light:
 - That The World Needs!
 - Because - When There Is No Light:
 - What Is There?
 - Darkness! Only Darkness!
 - And - What Happens:
 - When There's Only Darkness:
 - In This World?
 - A Dark World Is:
 - A Deficient World!
 - Without The Energy Of Light:
 - This World Would Be Just Another Cold Rock In The Universe!

- A Dark World Is Also:
 - A Dangerous World!
 - How Many Accidents & Tragedies Have There Been Because:
 - Its Been Dark!
- A Dark World Is Also:
 - A Distressing World!
 - If Every Day Was A Grey & Gloomy Day:
 - Just Imagine How It Would Affect Your Mind & Your Mood!
- A Dark World Is Also:
 - A Dying World!
 - Without The Life-Sustaining Energy Of Light:
 - This World Would Be Unrecognizable!
- But - When Much-Needed Light:
 - Shines Into This World:
 - It Changes & Transforms The Darkness:
 - And - Everything That Goes Along With It!
- The Power Of Light - Especially The Light Of The Sun:
 - Can Bring Heat & Warmth:
 - To A Dark & Deficient & Cold World!
 - Even On A Cold Day - The Sun Can Make The Bricks Of Our House Feel Warm!
- The Power Of Light:
 - Can Bring Help & Clarity:
 - To A Dark & Dangerous World!
 - Because You Can See & Avoid Things That Might Hurt You!
- The Power Of Light:
 - Can Bring Hope:
 - To A Distressing World!
 - Just A Ray Of Light Shining Through Dark Clouds:
 - Can Lift Your Spirit In An Instant! And:
- The Power Of Light:
 - Can Bring Healing & Life:
 - To A Dying World!
- But - When Jesus Said:
 - "I Am The Light Of The World!"
 - He Meant That He Has The Power:
 - To Do All That Light Does:
 - And More!
 - In Psalm 27:1 - King David Said:
 - "The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"
- So - When Your World Is Dark!
 - And You Need - In Your Own Heart:
 - The Heat / The Help / The Hope / The Healing That Only Light Can Bring!
 - Remember That Jesus Is The Light That You Need!
 - Jesus Is The Light:
 - Whose Glory Is:
 - Brighter Than The Sun!
 - 1 John 1:5 - "God Is Light, And In Him Is No Darkness At All!"
 - Jesus Is The Light:
 - That All Other Light:
 - Can Only Resemble & Reflect!
- And - If There Is Any Darkness:
 - In Your World - Or - In Your Life:
 - The Only Thing That Can Transform It:
 - Is The Light Of Jesus!
 - Because - His Light Is The Exclusive & Effective Light That You Need!

- But - Jesus Also Reveals That He Is:
- The Extensive Light!
 - Because - He Said:
 - “I Am The Light Of *The World!*”
 - The Light Of Jesus:
 - Didn’t Just Reach Out To:
 - A Single Woman:
 - Like That Woman!
 - Nor Did He Just Reach Out To:
 - A Single Nation:
 - Like The Jewish Nation!
 - Jesus Came To Shine The Power Of His Light:
 - To The Entire World!
 - And To The Sinners In This World - Just Like Us!
 - This Is Something That:
 - Was Even Prophesied About Jesus:
 - In Isaiah 49:6 - “I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth!”
- This Is Why Jesus:
 - Came Into This Old, Dark World:
 - In The First Place!
 - To Change And Transform You:
 - No Matter *Who* You Are & No Matter *Where* You’re From!
 - This Is Why John Even Wrote This Gospel!
 - Remember 1:4 - “In him was life; and the life was the light of men!” / 1:9 - “That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world!”
 - Jesus Came To Shine His Heavenly Light:
 - Into The Dark Hearts Of Sinners:
 - Like Us! In Order To:
 - Bring All The Heat / Help / Hope / Healing We Need!
 - This Is The Great Power:
 - Of Jesus - As:
 - “The Light Of The World!”
 - And - That Great Power Is Further Seen In The Rest Of John 8:12! In:

3. ***His Great Purpose – As The Light Of The World!***

- His Great Purpose!
 - Because - Jesus Then Says:
 - 8:12b - “He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life!”
 - Jesus Came As:
 - The Light Of The World - So That You Might Have:
 - A Real Experience:
 - With His Light!
 - Jesus Came - So That You:
 - Might “Follow” Him!
 - Imagine If You Were Trapped In A Cave:
 - And - All Around You Is Darkness! And:
 - You Don’t Know Which Way To Go!
 - Then - All Of A Sudden - You See:
 - A “Light At The End Of The Tunnel!”
 - And So - What Do You Do?
 - You Start Following The Light!
 - Now - Following Requires Faith!
 - Faith That The Light You See:
 - Is Not Only *Brighter*:
 - Than The Darkness Around You!
 - But That It Will Lead To:
 - Something *Better*:

- Than The Darkness You Are Going Through!
 - Jesus Is This Kind Of Light!
 - And - When You Believe In Him - And Follow Him - He Will Lead You:
 - The Right Way - And:
 - He Will Lead You:
 - All The Way!
 - Jesus Came So That You Might:
 - Experience His Light:
 - Through Faith & Trust In Him!
 - Have You Started:
 - To Follow Him?
 - Are You:
 - Following Him?
 - If You Are - Then Remember That:
 - “The Darkness Is Past, And The True Light Now Shineth!” (1 John 2:8)
 - Because - Now - There Is Also:
- A Real Expectation:
 - For You As A True Believer In & Follower Of Jesus:
 - As The “Light Of The World!”
 - And That Expectation Is:
 - 8:12 - “He That Followeth Me Shall Not Walk In Darkness!”
 - Now - This Statement By Jesus:
 - About **Not** Walking In Darkness:
 - Is A Strong Statement!
 - “Not” Here - Means - Never! Not At All! By No Means!
 - And - It Can Be Seen As Either:
 - A Future Promise - Or:
 - A Present Practice - Or:
 - Both!
 - As A Future Promise:
 - Jesus Is Saying To You That:
 - If You Follow Him:
 - The Time Will Surely & Certainly Come When All The Darkness Around You Will Be Gone!
 - *Great Day!*
 - But - As A Present Practice:
 - Jesus Is Saying That:
 - As You Follow Him:
 - The Darkness Within You Will Surely & Certainly:
 - Pass Away!
 - Even As We Are Told Back In:
 - Proverbs 4:18 - “But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day!”
 - And So - It Is The Great Promise:
 - *Of* Jesus’ Light:
 - Will Affect & Transform:
 - Your Practice & Walk:
 - *In* Jesus’ Light!
 - And - This Is The Expectation:
 - For The True Believer In & Follower Of:
 - Jesus - As - “The Light Of The World!”
 - There Will Be:
 - Less & Less Darkness:
 - With All Of Its Trappings!
 - And - More & More:
 - Light!
 - And Even - More & More:
 - Likeness In Your Life:

- To The Light!
- As You Expose Yourself To Jesus As The “Light Of The World!”
- Remember What Happened To Moses:
 - When He Was Exposed To:
 - The Light Of God & His Glory:
 - In Mount Sinai?
 - In Exodus 34:29 - “And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses’ hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him!”
 - The Light Of God:
 - Was Not Merely Reflected In The Face Of Moses!
 - It Was Absorbed & Then Possessed By Moses Himself!
 - And That Is What Will Happen To You:
 - More & More:
 - When You Follow Jesus As The Light Of *Your* World!
 - Because - There Is Also:
- A Real Endowment:
 - Of His Light:
 - In Your Life!
 - 8:12 - “He That Followeth Me Shall Not Walk In Darkness, But Shall Have The Light Of Life!”
 - This Last Statement:
 - Is Also - Part Future Promise - And:
 - Part Present Possession:
 - Of The “Living Light!”
 - Or - The “Live-Giving Light!”
 - As A Future Promise:
 - We Are Told In:
 - Isaiah 60:19 - “The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory!”
 - This Is Also Described In The New Jerusalem In Revelation 21:23-24 & Is What You Have To Look Forward To As A Follower Of Jesus!
 - As A Present Possession:
 - We Are Told In:
 - Psalm 36:9 - “For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light!”
 - It Is The Eternal Light Of Jesus:
 - That Generates:
 - Everlasting Life:
 - For “Whosoever Believeth In Him!” (3:16)
 - His Is The Light:
 - That Brings Forth Life!
 - Which No Other Light:
 - Can Do!
 - Other Light Can Help Sustain Life!
 - But It Can Never Create Life!
 - Not Even It Its Most Intense, Concentrated Form!
 - **IE:** Magnifying Glass!
 - But - Jesus Himself Is:
 - The “Light Of Life” - That You Will Forever Possess:
 - If You Just Believe In & Follow Him Today!

Conclusion:

1. In This World - That Is Still Full Of Darkness:
 - Both Naturally & Spiritually:
 - Remember This Great Pronouncement:
 - Of Jesus - From John 8:12:
 - “I Am The Light Of The World: He That Followeth Me Shall Not Walk In Darkness,

But Shall Have The Light Of Life!”

- Remember That:

- Jesus’ Great Power - As:

- The Light Of The World - Can & Will:

- Bring To Pass:

- Jesus’ Great Purpose!

2. And That Is To:

- Bring You:

- “Out Of Darkness Into His Marvelous Light!” (1 Peter 2:9)

- So - As We Are About To Sing:

- Whenever You Feel The Clouds Of World:

- Attempt To Engulf You:

- Into Its Darkness!

- Each Day:

- Come To The Light!

- ‘Tis Shining For Thee! Sweetly The Light Has Dawned Upon Me! Once I Was Blind,
But Now I Can See! The Light Of The World Is Jesus!

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