

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ I AM The Light of the World

Last time...the day after the last and great day of the Feast of Tabernacles,
a woman is taken in adultery

The wicked entrapment of a woman...but not the man
She is bait for a trap for Jesus...into which the trappers fell
“He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.”
Revealing the apostasy of the scribes and Pharisees

This time...Jesus resumes His teaching in the Temple on that day

We continue in John 8

Between that incident when the merciful Lord shamed the self-righteous scribes and
Pharisees
and the most intense confrontation between Jesus and the Jews prior to the final week
(Cross) of His ministry is this statement:

v12 Then spake Jesus again unto them:
Jesus speaks again to whom?
To the people who came unto Him in the Temple on this, the day after the great
and last day of the Feast of Tabernacles (v2)
The wicked interruption silenced and removed, Jesus resumes His teaching

Those who came
with great eagerness to hear what else Jesus of Nazareth would say

- The interpretation and fulfillment of The Rock of Ex 17:1-7
 - satisfaction of every person's thirst for God
 - Source of Life, everlasting life
- The interpretation and fulfillment of Is 12
 - God of Israel, the LORD JEHOVAH
 - salvation of His people, and all people
 - Holy One of Israel in the midst of them

must surely be now, especially after watching Jesus

- escape the Scribes and Pharisees inescapable trap
- trap the scribes and Pharisees in their own trap

be hanging on every word He says

Context:

In the Temple during the Feast of Tabernacles, 4 huge 75 foot candelabras/menorah lit up the Temple Mount and the surrounding area at night as if it were daytime, a guiding, darkness-chasing light that could be seen for miles around in every direction. Jerusalem was a breathtaking, illuminated city on a hill... a city that could not be hid

Now, the next day in the Temple, Jesus/Yeshua/Salvation says, “**I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**”

I am the light of the world:

1. I AM...the name of the Self-existent, eternal God speaking to Moses from out of the burning bush on Mount Sinai (Ex 3:14)
2. The Light
Light reveals what darkness conceals
Light makes life possible
Light purifies

Jesus Christ is the interpretation and fulfillment of Light

Ps 18:28	For thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness (reveal my heart)
Ps 90:8	Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret <i>sins</i> in the light of thy countenance
Ps 104:1-2	Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honor and majesty. Who covers <i>thyself</i> with light as <i>with</i> a garment: who stretches out the heavens like a curtain
Ps 27:1a	The LORD <i>is</i> my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
Is 60:19	the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light
Ps 43:3	O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles (here and now in scene of John 8:12)
Mal 4:2	But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings

3. of the world
not just of Israel but of the entire world
not just of the Jews but of all Adam's race
4. he that follows Me
Where is Jesus going?
 - a. to the Cross, a place of suffering and death
 - b. to be buried
 - c. to rise again the 3rd day
 - d. to return to eternity at the right hand of the Father,
from whence He came

He who follows Jesus (a disciple) goes there, not where the traditions and religions of men (darkness that conceals) go

5. shall not walk in darkness
sin and death
unbelief
6. but shall have the light of life
Light is Life
Life is Light

Have/hold/possess Light and Life

Matt 10:38	take not cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me
Matt 16:24	if any will come after Me...
Phil 1:29	it is given in the behalf of Christ not only...
Rom 8:18	reckon that the sufferings of this present time...
1 Cor 15:31	I die daily
Gal 2:20	crucified, live, not I but Christ lives in me

Guided by the Light

Ps 119:105 Word a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path
Walking by faith vs by sight

Sent to share the Light

Acts 26:18 To open their eyes, and to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in Me

1 Peter 2:9 ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light

Jesus is once again declaring His Deity...the OTL God, the Creator,
our Guiding, Life-giving Light

John 1:1-5 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life; and the **life was the light of men**. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not

As revealed in the Gospel of John, Jesus Christ is

- The Bread of Life (John 6:35) that must be eaten/ingested/believed
- The Water of Life (John 7:37-38) that must be drunk...
not “drunk” (past tense)
but “drunk” (perfect tense, started in past and continues in present)
- The Light of Life that must be followed to everlasting life

The simple choice God the Creator puts before fallen man, His beloved creature:
Life or death

Jesus Christ is the only Way to Life...He is The Life and He is The Light
Every person must choose

- to believe or not
- to drink or not
- to follow or not
- new birth as a new creature or not (John 3:3-8)

Eternity is at stake – eternal life/light or eternal death/darkness

Matt 7:13-14 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it

Col 1:12-14 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of His dear Son: In whom we have redemption through His blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins

2 Cor 4:6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ

Application

At the scene in John 7 (Feast Of Tabernacles), the giant menorahs (1 Vine + 6 branches) in the Temple that made Jerusalem a city that could not be hid are oil-fed (Holy Spirit filled) lampstands/candlesticks

- are the bearers of light
- are NOT the Light itself

Jesus declared that He is the interpretation and fulfillment of the Light
Today, who are the Light bearers?

Those who by faith are in Christ Jesus and Jesus in them

We (our lives) are to be in the world as Jerusalem was during the Feast of Tabernacles...
a breathtaking, illuminated city on a hill...a city that could not be hid

Matt 5:14-16

That Light shines in the darkness and darkness does not comprehend it (apprehend or possess)

Satan is the prince of this world, the prince of darkness...

his rabid intent of darkness is the destruction of every descendant of Adam

Jesus came to do the will of the Father, to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10), as the Light of the world

The Light of the world came to reveal what the prince of darkness is doing

The Light of the world came to give life to them which are dead in their sin (mankind)

The Light of the world returned to eternity...then sent the Holy Spirit to empower His Bride to continue His work (Acts 1:1)

The Light of the world is still working...thru His Bride, the bearer of His life-giving Light

Now, in God's Plan of Redemption of fallen man, the Light-bearers have a role in God's work of salvation

Rom 10:13-15

Just before service last Sunday, my brother informed me of the death 3 days previously of a very good friend from my "walking dead" college days

(I had not seen or spoken with him in 40 years, certainly not since I was born again of the Spirit of God)

One of the nicest people I have ever met

He was the son of Buddhist parents but not raised in that tradition

I was deeply grieved to my very core...and still am

Did he know the Lord Jesus Christ?

Did anyone share the Gospel with him?

What did he do with the revelation of God given to him?

Where is he now in eternity – in the presence of God or in hell?

He was someone's son, brother, friend, husband...and definitely someone God loved to
the very point of death and beyond
Did a child of God somewhere in the last 40 years care enough for him to share the
Good News of Jesus Christ with him?

The world is a very dark place
Every city and town and nation is covered in darkness
Those who are **of** the world need Light...to reveal that which concealed to them
(eternal destruction), to make Life possible, and to purify their eternal souls
In the world, followers of Jesus Christ are that Light...bearers of the Light of the world
In but not **of** the world, we must let our light shine!

Reaching out to the lost (the unbelieving, the dead in sin), being about the Father's business of
seeking and saving the lost, is what Jesus Christ is still doing...
thru His Bride, the bearer of His Life-giving Light

Everyone of us knows and loves people who are lost, dead in their sin and marching themselves
to hell...people God is calling into the Light of the kingdom of His Son
Do we care enough, love them enough to share with them the Light of eternal life we have
received...because someone cared enough, loved us enough, to share Jesus Christ with
us?

This is not a game, this is not a drill!
We are talking about life and death!
The eternities of people we know and love...and don't know...are at stake!

There is so much pain...the fruit of darkness...in the world, in the lives of people we know and
love
Physical pain, emotional pain, spiritual pain from that deepest of thirsts
Do our hearts hurt for them, as the heart of God does?
Does that heartache translate into action?

Every day we cross paths with people who are somebody's child, parent, sibling, friend...
Are we sensitive, available, and willing vessels of God's Light, Life, and Love to them?
Are we available and willing to be somebody's answer to prayer?
Will we speak of Jesus Christ, Light of the world?

Jerry and Lilia at Kneaders and the man in front of them in line:
"But their real question is, 'Is Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior?'"

Just that simple,
just that calmly bold,
just that willing to be an available vessel for God's work in the world today

Or as straightforward as:

- Who do you say Jesus Christ is?
- What is truth?
- How can I pray for you?
- What you are afraid of that the God of all comfort may comfort you?

It is to be natural...

Matt 10:19-20 take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.

None of us know how many days we have remaining in this strange land
(passing into glory when we move out of this tabernacle or via Rapture)

But we do know our time is short...and time (period) is short!

Therefore every day between now and then is urgent...

- for those who do not comprehend/apprehend/seize the Light of the world
- for us to share/shine the Light into that darkness, one lost person at a time

For those of us who are born-again of the Spirit of God, the issue of salvation
(from death and wrath of God) is settled

But we are to be unsettled that the issue of salvation is not settled in so many of our friends,
loved ones, acquaintances, fellow man

The love of Christ is to constrain us...to arrest/seize our souls, to compel us to act...
just as the love of Christ constrained someone to share Jesus Christ with us!

Yet that love of Christ is hindered by obstacles in our flesh placed by the prince of darkness who
fights the Light of life that cause us to be silent

- fear
- the pain of rejection
- the feeling of inadequacy
- laziness
- indifference
- no power

So, to help

- fight the war in the spiritual realm
- spiritual weapons training
- tear down strongholds and imaginations contrary to the execution of
our calling

we are “resurrecting” our Outreach Ministry

We gather on Sunday morning to 2 Peter 3:18 and 1 Cor 14:3...

To be fed, encouraged, comforted, strengthened, refreshed, and rest...in order...

To do the work of God Monday thru Saturday, to bear fruit pleasing to the Father

Our website, where this and all other messages can be heard, is an Outreach to the lost
as well as to the believer

The FB Live, which are learning how to do, is an Outreach to the lost
as well as the believer

And each of us individually is an instrument of Outreach to the lost

One Sunday afternoon per month after service, starting on next Sunday the 24th, bring your lunch
to Sai/La's home

We will meet (once per month) to

- pray, seek the Lord, ask help of the Lord
- encourage each other
- equip
- learn from each other (iron sharpens iron)
- make ourselves available to what the Lord is doing

I am not talking about the making of street preachers, I am talking about

- living our faith daily
- putting feet (action) and tongues (speech) to our faith
- loving people God loves (all) enough to share that Love, Life, and Light

in our own spheres of influence

We are not sent to save the world

John 17:9, 20

We are sent into the dark world on an eternal mission with an eternal message (Gospel)...

because God profoundly cares (sent His Son as His Sin Sacrifice) about the eternities of
all people

Rom 3:10

Rom 3:23

Rom 6:23

Rom 5:1

Rom 8:1

Choose Life or Death

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as
wool

I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn
thee...that they would come to grace, the gift of God

God is the God of the living, He is not the God of the dead (Matt 22:32)

Satan is the god of the dead

Life and death are much more than physical realities, they are spiritual/eternal realities

Life is to be born of the Spirit of God

Death is to remain dead in sin

Life is in Jesus Christ...Jesus is Life

All other "positions" are death

The Father desires none to perish...remain dead in sin...

but come to Life in His Son Jesus...by repentance of sin (agreement with Him)

But He is not a God of forced marches, He is a God of invitations

For an invitation to be accepted, it must first be...given/offered

We the disciples of Jesus Christ carry to invitations...we are to give/offer them

The place of acceptance of God's invitation to eternal life is the foot of the Cross of His

Sin Sacrifice

The Cross is the place of reconciliation between God and man

The Cross is where the dead are made alive

"Come!"

Prov 22:4 By humility *and* the fear of the LORD *are* riches, and honour, and life.

via repentance, agreeing with God, surrendering one's will, and receiving the gift of God

Make no mistake:

- Salvation is the work of God
- God does not need us for anything
- God desires to use us...to bless us

A word to the wise...[Prov 24:11-12](#)

If thou forbear to deliver *them that are* drawn unto death, and *those that are* ready to be slain...

if you know a sinner/unbeliever and do not do/say anything to warn him/her of the eternal magnitude of their stubborn choice

If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not...

If you turn a blind eye and pretend to not know about it

doth not he that pondereth the heart consider *it?* and he that keepeth thy soul, doth *not* he know *it?*...

Do you honestly think that the all-knowing and all-seeing God does not know of your unloving silence or your self-righteous indifference

and shall *not* he render to *every* man according to his works?

Do you honestly think God will not hold you accountable for your silence or indifference?

Do you think you will not reap what you have sown?

It is high time to awake out of our sleep, for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed
Rom 13:11

It is time to see everyone in our sphere of influence with

- God's eyes
- God's heart
- God's mind

It is time to be supernaturally bold (fruit of the baptism of Jesus)...it is time to act!

Jude 22-23 And of some have compassion, making a difference:
 And others save with fear, pulling *them* out of the fire; hating even the
 garment spotted by the flesh

What say ye?

Are you available and willing to be blessed by God as a co-laborer in His great work?

Will you die to self now, temporarily, that others may live forever?