

The 2ndnd Sunday in Lent ~ Sunday, March 17, 2019
“I AM: Metaphor of the Messiah ~ The Light of the World”
John 8:12-21

Tabernacles was a _____ festival memorializing the wilderness wanderings.

These 4 great lights reminded the people of God’s _____ dwelling among their ancestors through the pillar of fire in the wilderness. They also looked forward to the fulfilment of God’s promise to send a light—the _____—who would deliver them from darkness and despair.

UNDERSTANDING DARKNESS

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, ‘Let there be light, and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness.’” (Genesis 1:4)

God’s first creative act was to bring _____ out of darkness—and to proclaim that the light was _____. God’s plan was to create a world of light and peace, where He could enjoy _____ with His creation and be its focus and fulfilment.

Genesis Chapter 3 describes how _____ entered the world, through Adam & Eve’s _____, marring God’s creation and _____ out the light. The Bible describes in explicit detail how the presence of sin only brings _____, despair, and _____.

“They will look to the earth, but will see only distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish; and they will be thrust into thick darkness.” (Isaiah 8:22)

The heart of the problem is the human _____.

“For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly.” (Mark 7:21-22)

Darkness is a symbol of life _____ God; and in Ephesians 4, Paul argues that the natural state of humanity is to _____ in darkness.

Despite the teachings of the new age moment and some philosophies and religions; there is no _____ light within us, to guide us forward or to reveal truth. Any goodness within us that we might claim in our defence is only _____ to other fallen people, and not _____.

There is no light _____ us either. The countless tips, fads, and programs propagated by motivational speakers, life coaches, and other self-help practitioners fail to touch us in ways that can truly bring _____ light into our lives.

“...our help can only come from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth!” (Psalm 121:2)

“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.” (John 3:19)

darkness = *skotia* =

3 KINDS OF DARKNESS

- _____ **darkness.**
“From the creation of the world, God’s invisible qualities, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly observed in what he made. As a result, people have no excuse. They knew God but did not praise and thank him for being God. Instead, their thoughts were pointless, and their misguided minds were plunged into darkness. While claiming to be wise, they became fools.” (Romans 1:20-22)

Humanity has always sought the answer three questions:

According to the world the answers are:

“Now this I affirm and insist on in the Lord: you must no longer live as the Gentiles live, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of their ignorance and hardness of heart.” (Ephesians 4: 17-18)

Without the light, our _____ is messed up, and in our intellectual _____, we can willingly choose to walk in darkness because to step into the light would expose ours _____ and disobedience.

- _____ **darkness.**
“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! Woe

to those who are wise in their own eyes, and shrewd in their own sight!”
(Isaiah 5:20-21)

We too live in a world where there’s no longer _____ or wrong;
good or evil; black or _____; where there’s no such thing as absolute
_____ and everything is morally _____.

“In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right
in their own eyes.” (Judges 21:25)

Scripture, however, reminds us that just because something works for me,
doesn’t mean it’s _____ or good.

“There is a way that seems right for a person but in the end it leads to
death.” (Proverbs 14:12)

Without the light, our _____ are messed up because the values
that the world exalts are often not the values of _____.

• _____ **darkness.**

“The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole
body will be full of light; but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will
be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the
darkness!” (Matthew 6:22-23)

Spiritual blindness is the inability to see and understand spiritual _____
—especially the truth about _____.

People who are spiritually blind see only what their _____ eyes
show them; and are unable to see beyond the physical world to the things
of God

Without the light, are _____ are messed up, and we’re blind to the
_____ of God and His truth in the world.

The problem is, the world doesn’t realize it’s in darkness—it believes itself
to be _____. Human knowledge can only take us so far, and
what we’re left with is a lot of knowledge, but no _____.

God had a plan _____ mankind, and restore light to the darkness.
From the fall in the garden, down through the ages, God promised His
people that He would send a _____ who would be that light.

GOD PROMISES THE LIGHT

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who
lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.” (Isaiah 9:2)

“You will do more than restore the people of Israel to me. I will make you
a light to the Gentiles, and you will bring my salvation to the ends of the
earth.” (Isaiah 49:6)

“Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen
upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the
peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over
you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your
dawn.” (Isaiah 60:1-3)

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the
Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into
being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What
has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”
(John 1:1-4)

In the person of Jesus, the Son of God, the long-awaited Messiah had come
into the world and the light of His presence _____ the darkness,
and the darkness could not _____ it. This light wasn’t just for
the Jews, but for the whole _____.

“Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the
face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy
people Israel.” (Luke 2: 29-32)

UNDERSTANDING LIGHT

• **Light** _____.

“But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible.” (Eph 5:13)

• **Light** _____.

“For you have delivered my soul from death, and my feet from falling, so
that I may walk before God in the light of life.” (Psalm 56:13)

• **Light** _____ **darkness.**

“O Lord, you are my lamp. The Lord turns my darkness into light.” (2
Samuel 22:29)

• **Light provides** _____.

“Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me.” (Psalm 43:3)

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (Palm 119:105)

Jesus is declaring the He’s the Shekinah _____ that these celebrations memorialize and symbolize. He’s drawing their attention back to the cloud and the pillar of fire in the wilderness.

3 ASSURANCES

#1. He is assuring us of His _____.

“And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night.” (Exodus 13:21)

Jesus is our constant _____ throughout our lives; who promises in Hebrews 13:5 that He will never _____ us or forsake us. And in Matthew 28:20; that he will be “with us til the end of the _____.”

Jesus is _____ to His word, and no matter how _____ you may feel today; no matter how many people have let you down; rejected, betrayed, or abandoned you, Jesus is _____ and will remain by your side.

#2. He is assuring us of His _____.

“Whenever the cloud lifted from over the tent, then the Israelites would set out; and in the place where the cloud settled down, there the Israelites would camp.” (Numbers 9:17)

“Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12b)

Not only does Jesus show us the way out of _____, He also shows the best way to _____ our lives. He invites us to seek His _____ whenever we have a major decision to make; and to earnestly pray that He would show us the way _____.

#1. He is assuring us of His _____.

“Then the angel of God, who had been leading the people of Israel, moved to the rear of the camp. The pillar of cloud also moved from the front and stood behind them. The cloud settled between the Egyptian and Israelite camps. As darkness fell, the cloud turned to fire, lighting up the night. But

the Egyptians and Israelites did not approach each other all night.” (Exodus 14:19-20)

He’s the King of kings and the Lord of lords; He _____ the universe; all things hold _____ in Him; and our lives rest securely in His _____.

“But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one.” (2 Thessalonians 3:3)



Jesus is making a direct claim to be _____. He’s saying that He alone can _____ the dark corners of our heart, and bring us form darkness into light.

“I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness.” (John 12:46)

Light is meant to be _____, and Jesus promises when we follow Him, we’ll have the light of _____. In other words, Jesus’ light will make a _____ in our lives—His light shining in and through us will be seen in our _____, heard in our _____, and revealed in our _____.

“Let you light so shine before others, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

That’s what it’s all about—giving _____ to God and living in such a way that others will see our _____ and be drawn to _____.

“Come let us walk in the light of the Lord.” (Isaiah 2:5)

How will you respond?

Notes: