

**Sermon: The Light of Life**

**Text: John 8:12-59**

**Discussion Questions:**

In John 8:12, Jesus spoke 7 of the most stunning, shocking, powerful words ever uttered:

**“I am the light of the world.”**

In commenting on this verse, Martin Luther said, *“With this message Christ abolished all other doctrines.”* (Luther, LW 23:324)

- What do you think Luther meant when he said this?
- Seriously—what do you think Luther meant when he said this? How can this seven-word declaration abolish every other doctrine??? How is it that this declaration is at the very top of the doctrine list?

Another author named J. B. Lightfoot said about this verse, *“He, and only He, irradiates human existence with the knowledge of its nature, meaning, and purpose.”*

- What do you think Lightfoot meant when he said this?
- If you were to sit in a class at a state university, what do you think would be taught with respect to what it is that infuses or informs our existence with the knowledge of our nature, meaning and purpose? What might happen if you stood up and declared that ONLY JESUS gives us this light of knowledge and understanding?
- Do you believe that without the revelation of Christ—the world is darkness?

What difference would it make if Jesus had said, “I am **a** light **in** the world.” How would changing those two little words change the meaning of what Jesus said?

What difference would it make if Jesus had said, “I **give** the light **to** the world.” How would changing those two words change the meaning of what Jesus said?

**Examination:**

- Read **John 8:12-20**
  - When God called Himself **“I am”** back in Exodus 3, do you think He had in mind the fact that Jesus would “fill in the blanks” here in the Gospel of John?
  - Jesus calling Himself “light” is the second of seven clear “I am...” statements in John’s Gospel. The first is in John 6:35, when Jesus said, *“I am the bread of life.”* He also refers to the Holy Spirit as a “river of living water” in John 7:38. Talk about how these references in John chapters 6-8 seem to perfectly match the three most distinguishing acts of God’s provision and presence for the Israelites during their 40 years in the wilderness in the form of daily manna, water flowing from the rock, and the pillar of fire.
  - Where was the pillar of fire ultimately leading the Israelites during their years of wandering? What do you think Jesus meant when He said “you will never walk in darkness,” and where do you think He will lead us when we follow Him?

- How do the Pharisees try to discredit Jesus in verse 13? How does this relate to what Jesus said in John 5:31-47?
- What makes Jesus' self-defense valid (v. 14)?
- Why do you think Jesus continues to make the point that He and His Father are so intimately connected—and that everything He does is done in the power of the Father?
- Read **John 8:21-30**.
  - What do you think Jesus meant when He said to the Pharisees, "You will look for me..." (v. 21)? When do you think they will look for Him?
  - How does "dying in their sin" impact the Pharisees inability to go where Jesus is going? Is this verse teaching that not everybody is saved?
  - What must a person do to avoid dying in their sins (v. 24)?
  - The Pharisees ask the \$10,000 question once again in verse 25: "**Who are you?**" Do you think there was ANYTHING Jesus could say or do that would have convinced them that He was the Messiah—the Son of God? Is there anything more He could have done? Why were they so resistant to believing? Is this true today?
  - What was Jesus talking about in verse 28, when He talked about "lifting up the Son of Man"? How would this "lifting up" cause them to believe that He was from God, and that He does nothing on His own?
  - What do you make of the fact that "even as He spoke, many believed in Him (v. 30)?"
- Read **John 8:31-47**.
  - Jesus directly addresses the Jews who believed in him. Does faith alone produce a disciple—or is more required (v. 31)? What does the truth set us free from?
  - What do you think Jesus meant when He said, "You have no room for my Word" (v. 37)? What must WE do to make room for God's Word?
  - Is Jesus teaching that everyone has one of two fathers—either God is our father, or the devil is our father? Does it really boil down to those two realities?
  - We can all agree that the devil is still trying to drown out the voice and word of God? Talk about how this is happening.
- Read **John 8:48-59**.
  - What do you think the Jews meant when they accused Jesus of being a Samaritan?
  - Jesus talked about "holding to my teaching" in verse 31 (resulting in being a disciple that is set free). Here in verse 51, Jesus talks about obeying His Word (resulting in never seeing death). Doesn't this seem to fit with what we read in the Book of James—that faith without works is dead (James 2:14-26)?
  - And yet again—the people asked in verse 53: "**Who do you think you are?**" How does Jesus answer this question once-and-for-all in verse 58?

### **Application:**

Think about ways you are still a slave to sin. What do you need to do to be freed from these sins once and for all? What WILL you do? Take to heart Jesus' words that we must both trust and obey.