

## Sermon: “Go Light Your World”

**Text: John 8:12-20; Matthew 5:14-16; John 1:1-9**

### Introduction:

In John 8:12, Jesus says *“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”*

There are three things that Jesus makes clear in this verse: 1) People are walking in darkness; 2) Jesus is the light of the world; 3) By following Jesus, we can also have the light of life.

One of the most exciting things about being a follower of Christ is that Jesus calls us to join in His work of redemption and restoration. We can do this by bringing light to the darkness.

When you think about darkness, what words come to mind? Perhaps your list includes words like: fear, danger, despair, blindness, sadness, sin. The darkness can be a scary thing, but in modern times we often feel safe because of electric lights—and flashlights. Imagine, however, going out at night as recently as the 1800’s. There were no street lights, no flashlights, nothing but candles, lanterns and torches. So much has changed in this regard. Sadly, though, a great deal of darkness still remains.

Not only does Jesus proclaim Himself to be the light of the world, but **he also calls us to be light to the world**. He did it in John 8:12, Ephesians 5:9, and also Matthew 5:14-16, *“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”*

If we want to be the light, then we must start by understanding **how** to shine the light. Imagine a lightbulb—its purpose is to shine light. But no matter how hard it tries it cannot generate light on its own power. The lightbulb cannot fulfill its purpose until it is plugged into a power source. Once connected properly, however, the lightbulb will automatically shine – it cannot help it.

In the same way, we cannot shine light unless we are connected to Christ. We must seek after him and live in His presence. When we allow the Spirit to work in us, we do what light does: Bring courage to those with fear; protect those in danger; Kindle hope for those in despair; Offer guidance to the blind; Give joy to the sad; Show grace to the sinful.

The list could go on and on, but it starts with Jesus. **Being the light of the world is not a matter of performance, but rather a matter of position**. When you place yourself at the feet of Jesus, you will bring hope to dark places like never before. Thanks be to God that we are part of a body of believers—a church—with a long history of shining the light of Christ.

- **What are some of the ways that you, personally, as well as King Street Church Corporately, are bringing the light of Christ to a dark and desperate world?**

### Examination:

- Read **John 8:12-20**
  - What do you notice first in this passage?
  - What do you think that light and darkness signify in verse 12?
  - A great theologian once said: “Without the revelation of Christ the world is in darkness.” Do you agree with this statement? Without Christ, would your life be in darkness? If yes, how so?
  - What do you think it means that Jesus proclaimed “*I am the light of the world*” – as opposed to “*I came to give the light of the world*”? What is the difference between Jesus being the light and giving the light?
  - Is Jesus really a light to the whole world?
  - Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 4:6: “*For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.*” What insight does this verse add to the idea of Jesus as the light of the world?
  - Jesus says in v. 19 that if people know Him they also know the Father. What is He trying to teach us here?
  
- Read **Matthew 5:14-16**
  - Jesus is speaking to His disciples in this passage (as part of the Sermon on the Mount). Notice that He doesn’t say, “You CAN BE the light of the world.” He states that YOU ARE the light of the world. Does this mean that, as Christians, we are the light of Christ whether we want to be or not? Are you?
  - How do Christians put the light of Christ under a bowl?
  - How do Christians put the light of Christ on a stand? What is the result?
  - What does Jesus compare light to? (v. 16)
  - Who gets the credit when we shine the light of Christ through our good deeds?
  
- Read **John 1:1-9**
  - These verses are talking about Jesus—declaring that He is the Word of God who was with God the Father in the beginning, and is the One who created all things. More than that, He is the universal source of life and light. What do you think it means for Jesus to be the light of all mankind?
  - What are some ways that we can bear witness to the light? (v. 8)
  - Verse 9 is clear to point out that Jesus is “the true light”. What do you think this means? What is the difference between the true light—and false light? What are some examples of the false lights that exist in this world?

### **Application:**

This is serious business. The difference between light and darkness is the difference between life and death. The application is found back in the introduction: Bring courage to those with fear; Protect those in danger; Kindle hope for those in despair; Offer guidance to the blind; Give joy to the sad; Show grace to the sinful; and Speak about Jesus whenever and wherever you can.