

Jesus: The Word and The Light

John 1:18 "...the only God, who is at the Father's side, He has made Him known."

→ John's Purpose Statement

John 20:30-31—"30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

→ **Read Isaiah 42:5-7** (**Context:** These are the words of Isaiah, an Old Testament prophet, who spoke of the coming of Jesus Christ hundreds of years before He came.)

"Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶ "I am the LORD; I have called you [The Messiah/Jesus Christ] in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, ⁷ to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness."

1. Who is speaking?
2. Who is He planning on giving to the people and the nations?
3. What will He do as the "light for the nations"?

→ **Read John 1:1-5, 9-14, 16-18 & circle the words "Word" and "Light"**

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

...⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of *the only Son from the Father*, full of grace and truth...¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through *Jesus Christ*. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known."

1. Looking at vs. 1-2, 14, & 17, to whom is John referring when he says "the Word"?

2. What do vs. 4-5 & 9 say about “the light”?
3. Looking at vs. 10-12, what are the two responses to the light?
4. What does v. 18 say about Jesus Christ? What purpose does v. 18 give for the “true light...coming into the world” (v. 9) and for “the Word becoming flesh and dwelling among us” (v. 14)?

*As you read all the following passages, keep in mind the verse 18, “...the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.”

→ Read John 3:16, 19-21 & circle the word “light”

“¹⁶For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life...¹⁹ 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. ²⁰For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹ But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

1. What does this passage say about the light?
2. What were the different responses to the light coming into the world?

→ Read John 6:35-36, 51, 60-63, 66-70

³⁵ Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. ³⁶ But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe... ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever...” ⁶⁰ When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?” ⁶¹ But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, “Do you take offense at this? ⁶² Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³ It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life... ⁶⁶ After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. ⁶⁷ So Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as

well?" ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, ⁶⁹ and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

1. What does this passage say about Jesus' words?

2. What are the different responses to His words?

→ Read John 8:12 and 9:1, 5-7

8:12—" ¹² Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

9:1, 5-7—" ¹ As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth... ⁵ [Jesus said] "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud ⁷ and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing."

1. What do these passages say about the light?

2. What does Jesus do as the "light of the world" in 9:6-7?

→ Read John 12:35-37 and circle the word "light" (Context: Jesus is in Jerusalem addressing the crowd shortly after the Triumphal Entry where the crowd wanted to crown Him as king. He is talking about His upcoming death and the people are not happy about it. These are the last words that He says to the general crowd...)

"³⁵ So Jesus said to them, "The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. ³⁶ While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light. When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them. ³⁷ Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him..."

1. What does this passage say about the light?

2. Is there a warning? Is there a calling?

3. What is the final response of the people in verse 37?

→ Read John 12:44-46 and circle the word “light”

⁴⁴And Jesus cried out and said, “Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. ⁴⁵And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. ⁴⁶I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.”

1. What does this passage say about the light?

→ Read John 17:3-4, 6-8, 14-16, & 25-26 (Context: Jesus has spent time with the disciples during the last supper and is now praying to His Father.)

³And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do...⁶“I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. ⁸For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me... ¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ...²⁵O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

1. What was the work that the Father had given Jesus to do? (vs. 3, 6, 8, 14)
2. What is the disciple’s response to Jesus? (v. 6-8)
3. What is the world’s response (vs. 14, 25)

TEACHING NOTES

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John 1:18 "...the only God, who is at the Father's side, He has made Him known."

1. "Mission Impossible" (Isaiah 42:5-7, John 1:18)

2. The Man of the Mission

a. The Word (1:1-3, 14-18)

b. The Light (8:12, 9:5)

3. The Terms of the Mission

a. The target: _____ (John 1:18, 12:44-46)

b. The threat: _____ (John 12:46, 1:10-11, 3:19-20)

c. The tools: _____ and _____ (John 6:63, 17:6, 8, 9:5-7, 20:30-31)

d. The timeframe: _____ (John 12:35-36)

4. The Mission Accomplished

a. _____ did not overcome (John 1:5, 17:4,6, 26)

b. Responses

i. _____ (John 1:11, 3:19, 12:37)

ii. _____ (John 1:12-13, 6:67, 17:8)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In your own words, what does it mean that Jesus is the Word and the Light?

What is the impact of those truths to your eternal life?

How about your *daily* spiritual life? (Think about your thoughts...activities...emotions...use of time...motivations...)

What hinders you from walking in the light? What encourages you to walk in the light? (Think about the influences—people, shows, books, social media, etc.—in your life) Is there something that needs to change?

While praying in John 6:68-69, Jesus describes His disciples as those who have “kept your word.” How are you doing at knowing and keeping God’s word?

2. From the passages we studied today (especially John 3:19-21 & 12:35, 46), what does it look like to live and to love the darkness? Are people naturally in the light or in the darkness? (see John 12:46) How may one stop living in the darkness? (see John 8:12 & 12:46)

Discuss the relevance of what Paul says in Colossians 1:13-14, “¹³ God has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son [Jesus], ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

Discuss the relevance of what Paul says in Ephesians 5:8—“⁸ for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.”

3. In 1 John 1:5, John says, “This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.” How can we be more like John—having heard that Jesus (God) is light, how can we be better at proclaiming that truth?

Discuss the relevance of what Jesus also said in Matthew 5:14-16—¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”