

FEASTING ON THE FAITHFULNESS OF *JESUS*

Faithful to Light the Darkness

John 8:12

INTRODUCTION: WELCOME – MORE RETURNING ... ONLINE

Prayers for those affected by Hurricane Delta. We are still doing disaster relief in W FL from Hurricane Sally.

Voter Guides beyond party platforms and presidential candidates?

- None available yet. – strict requirements on guides for non-profit distribution
- Website – Another Presidential Election Voter Guide and other material on the election and other items on the ballot.

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If you forget that or lose the note you just made, you will find a link on our website.

sabc.org

Now look with me to the Scriptures to see more of what Jesus demonstrated about His faithfulness to those who would trust and follow Him.

Jesus said, “I AM.” – IDENTIFYING Himself as the One True Living God who had come in the flesh.

Jesus said, “I am the True Bread from Heaven, sent by God.” – to bring you life and satisfaction.

Then John tells us in his gospel, for he records all eight of Jesus’ “I Am” statements,

John 8:12 NKJV Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, **“I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”**

Three times the Lord Jesus stepped into the darkness and brought light.

THE FIRST WAS IN THE BEGINNING.

The Scripture tells us that it was the Lord Jesus who created all things and without Him, nothing was made that was made.

It was Jesus who stepped into the darkness that preceded the formation of the universe and said, "Let there be light."

And there was light, and it was good.

The physical light the Lord made continued to shine on God's world,

but it was not long before the world was shrouded in an even greater darkness, the darkness of sin.

This darkness was even worse than the first, because sin causes separation from God.

As darkness flees in the presence of light, sin cannot abide in the presence of God's holiness.

Thus **JESUS STEPPED INTO THE DARKNESS OF SIN THAT HAD OVERWHELMED THE WORLD** because it had permeated every human heart.

Jesus left the glowing brilliance of heaven with a plan and a purpose to end the separation caused by sin and to dispel the darkness that had overcome the world.

John calls Jesus "the Light shining in the darkness."

And thus the Christmas story: A virgin (human mother, heavenly Father), stable (Majesty cloaked in humility), baby (the All-Powerful One to dwell in a helpless baby's body), shepherds (good news for all), angels (heaven's most important announcement: Unto you is born a Savior, Christ, Lord), and wise men (acknowledge the fulfillment of prophecies of Messiah).

Yet all of this was preliminary, preparatory.

For Jesus did not come to merely bring light into the world but to rescue men separated from God because of the darkness of sin in their own hearts.

To do this, He had to die.

That is why the manger gives way to the cross. On the cross, Jesus died the death each sinner deserves because we choose darkness over light and sin over righteousness.

The wages of that sin is death, so Jesus took our place and died for us on the cross.

On the third day He arose from the dead having won the victory over sin, darkness, and death.

Why then, you ask, is there still sin and the darkness that comes with it, here, in the world today?

That is because **even now, Jesus is stepping into the darkness to bring light, but He is doing it one life at a time**, one heart at a time.

Jesus is the Light of the World.

He offers to come into our lives and bring God's light into our heart if we will repent of our dark sins and invite Him to be the Lord of our life.

Jesus says, "I am standing at the door and knocking. If you will open the door I will come in and live in you."

When you invite Jesus in, He forgives all the past sin and lights up our life with His own righteousness.

As Jesus Himself explained to Nicodemus,

John 3:16–18 NKJV 16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

The reason there is still so much darkness is that so many have refused to receive The Light of the World into their lives.

Again, listen to the words of Jesus.

John 3:19–21 NKJV 19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

Jesus said that when this happens, when you trust Jesus as Lord and Master, and you begin to follow the Lord Jesus, **Jesus said, "You are the light of the world."**

When we trust Christ, the Light of the World says to us, "YOU are the light of the world."

- Suddenly, we are a part of God's plan for dispelling the darkness.
 - Not with our own light, but with His.

- Our light is a reflection of His light.
- We are increasingly made like Him. It is like polishing a mirror. The more we grow to be like Jesus, the more of His light we reflect.
- We are also told to tell others about the Light of the World. We are His witnesses.
- We share our testimony.
- We share the gospel.

Matthew 5:14-16 NKJV 14 “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

- As the light of the world, those of us who are saved, are to walk in the light of His righteousness.

Let’s read our text for the day again.

John 8:12 NKJV Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. **He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.**”

- Folks, we not only have the privilege of walking in the light of righteousness, we have the responsibility.
- Our country is close to plunging into a darkness from which we may not emerge as a nation.
- And each of us who are followers of Christ, know the way of the Light of the World!
 - We know that our country must stand for the protection of human life. ALL Life!
 - Born and unborn
 - Young and Old
 - Red and yellow, black and white! They all are precious in God’s sight!
 - We know that our nation must submit to God’s standards for human sexuality and for marriage.
 - And one thing we can all do very soon is to vote and to vote for the people who pledge to protect life and to uphold godly standards in our land.

- We must PRAY! I am praying Abraham's prayer for Sodom, "For the sake of 10 will You spare the city?" For the sake of 10 Million will You save our country? 10 Million righteous in Christ!

CONCLUSION: That Jesus is indeed the Light of the World offers us great hope, even when we see such dark and frightening shadows all around us.

But having received the Light of the World into our lives, and having trusted Him, gives us great responsibility to walk in the light of His righteousness, and to share with others how they can have the Light of Life in their own hearts.