

WHAT JESUS SAID – THEN AND NOW

The Light of the World

INTRODUCTION: Dads, our kids live in a dark world. Yes, there has always been darkness in the world, but the darkness of our world grows deeper.

Jesus said, **John 3:19 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.**

Dads, granddads, and single moms who have to play the role of dads in your kids lives, I want to tell you from God's Word this morning how to bring light into the lives of your kids even though they are growing up in a dark world that probably is going to grow darker still in their lifetime.

This is just a two point sermon. So if when I finish, you feel cheated because I didn't give you three points, see me after church for a refund.

First, to light up your kid's life, you have to know the source of light.

A little boy forgot his lines in a church presentation. His mother was in the front row to prompt him. She gestured and formed the words silently with her lips, but it did not help. Her son's memory was blank.

Finally she leaned forward and whispered the cue, "I am the light of the world."

The child beamed and with great feeling and a loud, clear voice said, "My mother is the light of the world."

Now mothers, even though it is not mother's day, I would never overlook the light that you have and do bring into your kid's lives and our lives. But I am sure you would be the first to affirm with me the truth of the Word of God that

I. JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

1. The light of the world is not education.
2. The light of the world is not technology
3. The light of the world is not some new philosophy.
4. The Light of the World is a person.
5. The Light of the World is Jesus.

John 8:12 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."

The significance of the title "Light of the World"

1. The glory of God always manifested itself in brightness, light, in fire and burning.
2. Like to Moses in the burning bush.
3. As to Israel in the pillar of fire which later descended into the tabernacle.
4. Like to the shepherds when Jesus was born and the glory of the Lord shone round about them.
5. Like John who said of Jesus, "We beheld His glory."

When did John see the glory of God upon the man Jesus? At the transfiguration, "His clothes became as white as light."

6. When Jesus said of Himself, "I am the light of the world." He was telling us that He Himself was the glory of God, the revealed presence of the Father.

Dads, moms, grandparents; if you want to really light up the lives of your children and grandchildren, you must bring them to Jesus.

1. Now folks, I am not in any way against your doing fun things with your kids or grandkids.
2. When my boys were little I took them hunting and fishing. I spent a lot of hours waiting by a fence row trying to find a dove that was slow enough I could hit!
3. But men, let me tell you something.
 - a. You cannot take them to Disney often enough.
 - b. You cannot go with them to enough football games.
 - c. You can't clap through enough dance recitals.
 - d. You can't go to the beach enough or camping enough or anything else enough to do what the Light of the World Himself can and will do in the life of your child, grandchild, or teenager.
- e. **When you introduce your kids to Jesus, you are helping them meet**
 - **Their Creator** who knows what they are made of and made for.
 - **Their Guide** who knows the path that will bring lasting joy and real success.
 - **Their Substitute** who died for their sins that they might be cleared and cleansed for eternity.
 - **Their Savior** who will rescue them not only from the eternal effects of sin but the temporal impact also that destroys so many lives in this age.

- **Their Lord** who as a loving master will always direct their lives into that which is good and beneficial.
- **Their God** who will put a calling upon their life that will provide meaning and purpose for all of their days here and then will be carried over into the Millennial Kingdom and then again into the New Heaven and the New Earth.

Is that not what you want for your children? Is that not what you want for your kids and grandkids? Then

- introduce them,
- help them get to know,
- help them to learn to follow Jesus.

Jesus is the Light of the World, and nobody can light up the lives of your kids and grandkids like Jesus can and will.

Now here is the second and final point for today.

II. YOU YOURSELF CAN BE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

John 8:12 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."

We ourselves can light the way of others and specifically our children by reflecting the light of Christ.

This we do, not by shining independently, but by following Him.

In the days of Belshazzar, it was the Babylonian Kingdom that in spite of its power and prosperity was obscured by moral darkness. The grandson of the mighty king Nebuchadnezzar was the king of the city of Babylon while his father, Nabonidus, ruled the empire. In a drunken banquet of government officials, his multitude of wives and concubines, Belshazzar calls for the sacred vessels captured from the temple. And using those vessels that were holy to the One True and Living God of heaven, he desecrated them by honoring the false gods of silver, gold, bronze, wood, and stone.

The Most High God was enraged and caused an unattached hand to appear in the banquet hall and write four words upon the wall: Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin. The king and the raucous crowd with him were suddenly silenced and frightened. His face turned pale. He literally shook before his subjects.

But while he was greatly fearful about what was happening he was equally ignorant. He could read the words. They were in his own language. But he did not understand the message.

So his mother spoke up. The Queen Mother said, “Son, my king, there is a man in your kingdom who has light in his life. He is filled with wisdom, understanding, and the Spirit of God. He can tell you what this means.”

So Belshazzar called for Daniel, and Daniel told him the meaning of the words God sent, and those prophetic words were fulfilled that very night.

But here is what I want you to see.

In the midst of a dark culture,

In the midst of a morality nearly void of light,

In the midst of unbelief, skepticism, and mockery

was a man who shined light into his world.

Dads, you can be that man!

Grandfathers, you can be that man!

You single moms who are laboring doing double duty as mother and father to your kids, let me say to you, God will let you be that light in their lives by being a reflection of the light of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Light of the World!

Matthew 5:14-16 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.

CONCLUSION: Dads, moms, grandparents...

- Do you want to light up the lives of your children and grandchildren with a light that will last longer than the flicker of the flat screen?
- Do you want to shine something into their lives that will outshine the dark shadows cast by the wicked world in which they live?
- Do you want to give to them a light that will burn within and cannot be taken away or quenched?

Then lead them to Jesus and help them to trust and follow Him.

And be a light yourself, so they can see in you a person who reflects the light of Christ and is filled with the wisdom and Spirit of God.