

## Jesus – the Light of the World

Any of us who have been on a multiple day hike will probably know what it is like to walk through rough terrain in the dark when you didn't manage to get to the next cabin before sunset. Our whole feeling of the hike changes as darkness sets in around us and suddenly we start experiencing different emotions to when it was still light.

When driving a motorcycle the same person who would feel at ease driving over 200km/h in the daytime drives cautiously in the night. It doesn't take much at night to get a bike to fall – a rock in the road or a pothole.

How are we living our lives? In darkness or in light?

John 8: 12

### 1) Jesus, the Light of the World

- John 3: 17 – 21 “For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.”
- The world is full of darkness
  - Genesis 1: 2 – 4 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness
  - The Hebrew word for formless can mean to lie in waste or desolation. A desert or worthless thing. Confusion
  - The Hebrew word for empty can mean “an indistinguishable ruin”
  - The figurative definition of darkness, according to Strong, can be *misery, destruction, death, ignorance, sorrow, wickedness*
- Even though this describes the world at creation it also describes the world today and, in many ways, our lives.
- It is into such a world that Jesus came and declared that He is the Light of the world
  - The Light exposed sin. People could enjoy their sin in the darkness but hated the light because the light showed sin up to be exactly what it is – utterly sinful
  - The light brings a separation – before there was only darkness now there is a separation between the light and the darkness
  - The light takes that which was a waste, desolation and confusion and brings about order and fruitfulness
  - The light takes that which was empty – an indistinguishable ruin – and begins the process of fulfilment and wholesomeness
  - The light takes misery, destruction, death, ignorance, sorrow and wickedness and brings healing, peace, righteousness and new life.

### 2) Whoever follows Jesus will never walk in darkness

- If we follow Jesus we will walk in the light as He is the light of the world.
  - It is impossible to live in light and darkness at the same time

- Darkness is the absence of light
- If we are in a dark room it is dark because there is no light
- If we switch on the light then there won't be any darkness, but there cannot be light and darkness at the same time.
- Colossians 1: 12 – 14 "...giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
  - We all lived in the oppressive dominion of darkness but Jesus saved us and brought us into the kingdom of light – the kingdom of Jesus who himself is the light
  - Revelation 21: 23 The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.
- When we follow Jesus we walk in His light which gives:
  - Hope
  - Fruitfulness
  - Freedom from sin and fear
  - Freedom from guilt and shame
  - Righteousness
  - Peace
  - Life
- Jesus enlightens us to the truth of who He is and what he wants of us:
  - MT 4:15 – 16 "Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, along the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles-- the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."
  - Luke 2: 30 – 32 For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."
  - Jesus shines the light of His revelation into our hearts that we may know the truth of who He is.
  - Proverbs 29:18 Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but blessed is he who keeps the law. (KJV: Where there is no vision, the people perish)
  - Jesus enlightens us to God's will for our lives and church.
- Not only will we not walk in darkness when we follow Jesus but we in turn will become the light of the world
  - Matthew 5:14 "You are the light of the world (Jesus to His disciples)
  - The work of light mentioned above falls on us.

### 3) Who ever follows Jesus will have the Light of Life

- Life does not thrive in darkness
  - Nature tells us that life needs light to thrive and be fruitful.
  - Thus spiritual life, likewise, does not thrive in darkness and needs light.
- Death reigns in darkness but life reign in light.
- When someone has been trapped in a dark tunnel that has collapsed without a way out and they scratch through the rubble for hours. Suddenly a stream of light pours through a little hole. What is that person's reaction? It is one of excitement, joy, hope and a new vigour for life. That ray of light is the light of life in the midst of darkness.
- When we follow Jesus we have the light of life in a dark world.