



Calvary of Albuquerque

Blinded by the Light - John 8:12-20

From the Series, Believe:879

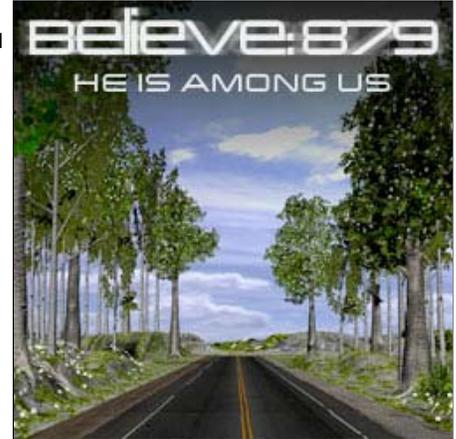
By Pastor Skip Heitzig

MESSAGE SUMMARY

When the sun shines right in your eyes, your immediate inclination is to squint, turn away, or put sunglasses on. Light can be blinding! Though light penetrates our world, providing illumination and energy for our very existence, big doses of it can be difficult to handle. That's true spiritually as well. Jesus, by His teaching and work, illuminated this world darkened by sin. Some rejoiced in that light, able to see where they were going. But others, who'd been so accustomed to spiritual darkness, could only wince when Jesus was around.

OUTLINE

- I. Christ - *The Light Source*
- II. Christ Followers - *The Light Followers*
- III. Christ Haters - *The Light Rejecters*



Making it More Than a Sermon:

1. What are the properties of light? How is Jesus the light in your life? What darkened areas remain? How could you let more light into those areas?
2. What do Jesus' words in these verses teach you about dependence on the Father? How could you be more dependent on Him this week?
3. How is rejecting Christ similar to covering one's eyes when the light gets too bright? Can we do that as believers when it comes to specific truths found in Scripture?

DETAILED NOTES

In our text, Jesus makes the second of seven significant "I am" statements in the Gospel of John: "I am the Light of the World" (John 8:12). We physically and emotionally need light. Man cannot thrive or even survive without light. People cannot thrive or survive spiritually without Sonlight, the light of God's Son, Jesus Christ. Light can be intimidating, even assaulting-like bright light turned on in a dark room, blinded by the light.

- I. Christ - *The Light Source*
 - A. Background
 1. Jesus is in the Treasury, in the court of Women (collection boxes, called trumpets, lots of traffic, all required to pay 1/2 shekel temple tax)
 2. Feast of Tabernacles just ended
 3. One week after the Illumination of the Temple
 - a. Four candelabras as tall as the temple walls, cups filled with 65-gallons of oil each, lit up all of Jerusalem
 - b. Wisest, godliest, holiest men would dance all night through the court of women, singing psalms of praise (Mishnah)
 - c. Celebrating the pillar of fire in the wilderness (Exodus 13:21)
 - B. Jesus was stating they had had one night of great celebration-Follow Me, and I'll light up your life. I am the light of the world.
 - C. Pharisees have an immediate hostile response (they knew what he was claiming)
 - D. Light was a title reserved for God alone (Psalm 27:1; Isaiah 60:19; Job 29:3; Micah 7:8)
 1. When Jesus says He is the light of the World, He is claiming to be our God
 2. John wants us to know that Jesus claimed to be God in a body
 3. The Shekinah Glory, the light that directed and protected Israel is Jesus
 - E. Christians should not be surprised; Simeon referred to Jesus as light (Luke 1:78)
- II. Christ Followers-*The Light Followers*
 - A. Our Internal Condition - confidence
 1. Like the Israelites following the Pillar of Cloud/Fire
 - a. No Fear, no confusion, no stumbling, just following
 - b. The way is illuminated
 - c. Life makes sense
 2. Medical science can add years to your life; only Jesus can add life to your years
 3. People without Christ are disoriented and confused

4. Dr. Albert Szent-Gyorgyi, Nobel Laureate in Medicine and Physiology, in reply to being asked what he would do if he were 20 today: "I would share with my classmates rejection of the whole world as it is—all of it. Is there any point in studying and work? Fornication—at least that is something good. What else is there to do? Fornicate and take drugs against this terrible strain of idiots who govern the world."

B. External Behavior

1. Peripatéo- walk about; term has significant spiritual meaning used figuratively for one's entire lifestyle
 - a. Walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16)
 - b. Walk in love (Ephesians 5:2)
 - c. Do not walk after the flesh, but according to the Spirit (Romans 8:1)
 - d. Do not walk in darkness, but walk in the light (Ephesians 5:8)
2. Our behavior changes when we come to Christ
3. Former behavior is replaced with God-honoring lifestyle

C. Spiritual Influence

1. We have the light of life
2. It doesn't just come to you, you are a shaft of light
3. You reflect the greater light (like the moon reflects the glory of the sun)
4. Evangelism (we reflect God's light into dark places)
5. As long as Jesus was in the world He was the light of the world. When He is with the Father, believers are the light of the world (John 9:5; Matthew 5:14)
6. We are called to be light (Ephesians 5:8)
7. Our influence can be staggering
8. Instead of complaining about darkness, we need to shine the light

D. Eternal Destiny

1. If you follow and reflect glory now, you will shine and be celebrated forever (Daniel 12:3; Matthew 13:43)
2. Be a life that light shines through

III. Christ Haters-The Light Rejecters

- A. A matter must be established by two or three witnesses (Deuteronomy 19:15)
 1. Claimed Jesus' evidence was inadmissible
 2. Laws given by God to Men
- B. Where is your Father? Slur doubting the legitimacy of Jesus' birth
- C. When Jesus is loved, received, and followed, He becomes light to you; When He is hated, rejected, and spurned He becomes darkness to you
 1. Like the Pillar of Cloud/Fire (Exodus 14:20)
 2. R. Kent Hughes: "Hugh Hefner was raised in a minister's home. Joseph Stalin studied for the priesthood. Mao Tse-tung was raised under missionary teaching."
 3. Light of Jesus becomes darkness to those who hate Him
- D. Not everyone likes the light of Christ Shining (John 3:20)
- E. People hate the light because the light reveals what darkness conceals - flaws
- F. We must shed light in a manner as wise as serpents, as harmless as doves (Matthew 10:16)

Greek Terms: Peripatéo- to walk about

Publications Referenced: *Blinded by the Light*, by Bruce Springsteen; Mishnah

Figures Referenced: Dr. Albert Szent-Gyorgyi; R. Kent Hughes

Cross References: Exodus 13:21; Exodus 14:20; Deuteronomy 19:15; Psalm 27:1; Isaiah 60:19; Daniel 12:3; Job 29:3; Micah 7:8; Matthew 5:14; Matthew 10:16; Matthew 13:43; Luke 1:78; John 6:35; John 6:48; John 9:5; Romans 8:1; Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 5:2; Ephesians 5:8;