

Sermon Notes Sunday 20th January

Jesus: 'I am the Light of the World'

Welcome: Describe your most vivid childhood memory involving darkness. What feelings come over you in the dark?

The 'I am' sayings of Jesus in St John's gospel help us to explore how Jesus identified himself. This week we look at what he meant when he said; 'I am the Light of the world'.

Read John 8:12.

- What does it mean to 'walk in darkness' for you? What might be the consequences?
- What are the contexts in which people might be 'walking in darkness' without even realising it?
- How has following Jesus brought light into your life?

Consider for a moment the context in which Jesus made this statement during the Feast of Tabernacles and the Illumination of the Temple with the 4 giant Menorah (or Candelabras) lighting up the city and every courtyard in the city.

- What do you think Jesus was saying to the people and in particular the Pharisees by making this statement at this specific moment?

Read John 9:1-12 where we see the out working of Jesus' claim.

Here Jesus meets a man who has been blind from birth. The man illustrates that those who are blind might see clearly, while others with sight might see nothing at all. There is a far greater tragedy than physical blindness. Some people with twenty twenty vision are blind spiritually to God and his work around them. Again in verse 5 Jesus claims to be '**The Light of the world**'.

- In what sense does the physical healing of the blind man confirm Jesus' spiritual claim?
- Based on the question the disciples ask Jesus in verse 2, how do they view the relation between sickness and sin?
- What is Jesus' view of the same issue? What do you think he means by 'so that the work of God might be displayed in his life' as an explanation for his blindness from birth?
- How might that help us to understand our own trials and tribulations in life?

Reflection: Can you identify areas of 'darkness' in your own life? Ask the Holy Spirit to shine his spotlight to reveal those areas and in prayer bring them to Jesus and expose them to the light of his love for healing.

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