

## “Jesus: The Light of the World”

The Vine Series... John 15:5

### SCRIPTURE

John 9: 1-11 (NIV)

*As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”<sup>3</sup> “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.*

*<sup>4</sup> As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”<sup>6</sup> After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. <sup>7</sup> “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.*

*<sup>8</sup> His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?”<sup>9</sup> Some claimed that he was. Others said, “No, he only looks like him.” But he himself insisted, “I am the man.”<sup>10</sup> “How then were your eyes opened?” they asked. <sup>11</sup> He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.”*

**Subject Question:** According to John’s gospel account, what three lessons does Jesus teach concerning the nature and quality of Spiritual Light?

**Compliment answer:** The Absence of Spiritual Light, The Activity of Spiritual Light, and The Action of Spiritual Light.

**Big Idea:** According to John’s gospel account, the three lessons Jesus teaches concerning the nature and quality of spiritual light are: The Absence of Spiritual Light, The Activity of Spiritual Light, and the Action of Spiritual Light.

**Homiletical Idea:** “God is Restoring”

**Purpose:** I want the congregation to explore the definition and application of Jesus offering to us Spiritual Light.

**Introduction:** This is the seventh in a series that we will be exploring concerning the passage in John’s gospel where Jesus states, *I am the vine, you are the branches, He who abides in me and I in them, He it is who bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.* We will be looking at what it means

to be “abide-ers” in this series. John has shown us Jesus’ roles as Son of God in Chapter one, Son of Man in Chapter two, Divine-Teacher in Chapter three, Soul-Winner in chapter four, Great-Physician in Chapter five, Bread of Life in Chapter six, Source of Living water in Chapter seven, and the Sympathetic-Savoir in Chapter eight. Today we explore the concept of Spiritual Light in context of Jesus saying He is the Light of the world. What does it mean to come into the Light? What does it mean to have the Light of Life? And more what are we as disciples of Christ supposed to be doing with the Light that we each have been given?

**Groundwork:** Pulpit Commentary: as Jesus was passing by, going along his way, he saw a man blind from birth (cf. ἐκ κοιλίας μητρὸς αὐτοῦ, Acts 3:2; Acts 14:8). He was obviously a well-known beggar, who had often proclaimed the fact that he was blind from birth (see ver. 8). Such a condition and history rendered the cure more difficult and hopeless in the view of ordinary professors of the healing art, and the juxtaposition of such a symbolic fact with the near activity of those who were boasting of their Abrahamic privilege and their national and mere hereditary advantages, is one of the instances of the unconscious poesy of the gospel history. There he sits, the very type of the race which says, "We see," but which to Christ's eye was proclaiming its utter helplessness and blindness, not asking even to be illumined, and revealing the fundamental injury done to the very race and nature of man, and calling for all the healing power that he had been sent into the world to dispense. The man who had been struck blind, or whose eyesight had been slowly dosed by disease, became the type of the effect of special sins upon the character and life; thus e.g., vanity conceals radical defects and weaknesses; pride hides from the sinner's own view his own transgressions; temporary blindness to great faults is one of the symptoms of gross sin like David's, and prejudice is proverbially blind and deaf; but here is a man who is nothing less than the type of a congenital bias to evil, of hereditary damage done to human nature. Unless Christ can pour light upon those who are born blind, he is not the Savior the world needs.

(Jesus still enlightens everyone who comes to Him)

- A. The absence of Spiritual Light. (Vs.1-3) *As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”<sup>3</sup> “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.*
- B. The truth of the matter is that from creation forward there has always been two realities: (Day) Light meaning illumination, ability to see, appealing to humanity’s higher sensibilities of morality, ethical behavior, and fear of God. And (Night) darkness meaning inability to

see one's path, find one way, appealing to our lower base appetites and behaviors. The writers of the scriptures give us some insights:

1. Proverbs 4:18 *The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter till the full light of day. <sup>19</sup> But the way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble.*
2. Ecclesiastes 2:14 *The wise have eyes in their heads, while the fool walks in the darkness;*
3. Isaiah 5:20 *Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter*
4. Isaiah 42:7 *This is what God the LORD says—the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out, who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it: “I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, <sup>7</sup> to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.*
5. John 8:12 <sup>12</sup> *When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”*

- C. It's not that most people aren't good people, they are! But the reality of these verses point to is the very real dilemma in the human heart; each of our hearts constantly strives to come to terms with some kind of philosophical approach to life and death and meaning and purpose. But the most we can do is rationalize or hypothesize about it.
- D. But to be frank, it's all just whistling in the dark. Without the spiritual illumination that comes from being born again, converted, touched by the hand of the Lord, and changed we can only hypothesize about life in general, and philosophize concerning subjects as life after death, and the real meaning of life itself and so on.

(Jesus still enlightens everyone who comes to Him)

- A. The Activity of Spiritual Light (vs.4-7) <sup>4</sup> *As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup> After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. <sup>7</sup> “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.*

- B. The key to this verse is the understanding the content of what happens between Jesus' proclamation of Himself being the Light of the World in verse 5 and the man receiving his sight and coming homing home in verse 7.
1. Jesus says then Jesus acts. He takes the initiative. Notice as well Jesus did not ask the man's permission. The sovereignty of God's choice.
  2. Jesus acts then Jesus says. Why the mud? Have no idea. But the fact was that seemingly the man's lack of sight had to be intensified before Jesus could say go and wash yourself. The sovereignty of God's ways.
  3. In faith the man allows Jesus to touch him, in faith the man believes that Jesus is in the light bringing business, in faith the man does as Jesus had told him to do, and in faith he now walks home, no more living only in a world of darkness and blindness, but now able to see where he was headed, and in the truest sense He not only headed home to be with his family whose faces he had never seen, but went home to see the face of one who not only said He was the light of the world, but had indeed brought light into his world. The sovereignty of God's Grace.
- C. The question you and I need to ask is what kind of sight, spiritual illumination do we get when Jesus removes the spiritual mud from our eyes of understanding?
1. 1 Peter 2:9 *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.* Our place in life
  2. Ephesians 5: 8 *For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light..* Our purpose in life
  3. 1 John 2:9 *Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister<sup>[a]</sup> is still in the darkness.* Our priority in life
- D. The activity of spiritual light can best be seen in now we "see" Jesus, although Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 13: *<sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. <sup>12</sup>For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.* We also have new sight in our understanding of God as Father, Creator

and Redeemer. And finally we come to see the wondrous work of the Holy Spirit who himself provided the illumination and understanding to live the life of follower of the one who still is the Light of the World.

(Jesus still enlightens everyone who comes to Him)

- A. The Action of Spiritual Light (vs. 8-11) <sup>8</sup> *His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup> Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him." But he himself insisted, "I am the man." <sup>10</sup> "How then were your eyes opened?" they asked. <sup>11</sup> He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see."*
- B. It's one thing to understand the absence of Spiritual Light in our world. It's another to see the activity of Spiritual illumination as Jesus gives to us new sight at new birth. But notice that the story does not end in with just the miracle of the healing event—the dialog continues telling more of the interaction between the once darkened, blind man who now sees and the crowds who approach him-- not in joyful praise that this man had been healed, but more with speculation and suspicion.
- C. What did Jesus have to say about those whom he would give spiritual light? Listen to His words from the Sermon on the Mount.

<sup>3</sup> *"Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

<sup>4</sup> *Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.*

<sup>5</sup> *Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.*

<sup>6</sup> *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.*

<sup>7</sup> *Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.*

<sup>8</sup> *Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.*

<sup>9</sup> *Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.*

<sup>10</sup> *Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

<sup>11</sup> *"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

<sup>13</sup>“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

<sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

D. I once was blind and now I see: The Blind man’s story, Our story, Christ’s invitation.