



Series: Light in the Darkness

Title: The Glory of Jesus Christ

Passage: John 1:1-18

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Introduction:

- I want you to picture a Christian man named Frank.
 - He's someone who has a passion to study God's word.
 - He's someone who can explain deep theological concepts.
 - Yet, at the same time, he's also struggling with his marriage.
 - He gets defensive when his wife asks him to get marriage counseling.
 - He's struggling to connect with co-workers and friends.
 - And instead of peace and security, he feels discouraged by his relationships, and unsure about the direction of his life.

- I also want you to imagine a Christian woman named Joan.
 - She goes to church and faithfully serves.
 - She's someone who desires to honor God.
 - But inside, she continues to feel insecure and self-conscious about what others think about her.
 - She feels inadequate as a parent.
 - She continues to carry shame from her past.
 - And instead of God's love and peace, she feels unhappy with her life, and she keeps feeling like she's missing out.

- The message of Christmas is that Jesus brings, hope, and peace, and joy, and love.



- But sometimes, it may seem there's a disconnect between the life that Jesus offers, and the life we actually live.
- Do you ever feel this disconnect?
- It can be discouraging and even confusing when we feel a disconnect from the gospel and our lives.
- But through this Christmas series, I want all of us to see, how Jesus is the light in the darkness.
 - Jesus truly is, the Savior of the world, who came to give us more hope, and peace, and joy, and love.
 - It's not just a nice comforting story we share every Christmas.
 - Jesus can truly transform your life.
 - And we'll see from this series, what we may be missing in our life, so we can live the abundant life, Jesus offers to us.

Point 1:

- First, I want us to see, the life that Jesus offers.
- Take a look at verses 1 to 4.
 - **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men.**
John 1:1-4
- From these verses, we learn that Jesus is God.
 - Jesus is the Word, who was in the beginning.



- He wasn't created.
- He always existed.
- And yet, he's also distinct from God the Father.
 - The Bible says that the Word was with God.
 - Jesus is God, but he's also distinct from the Father.
 - They share a special relationship.
 - The Bible clearly shows here, God the Father, and God the Son.
 - **"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."**
- These verses also teach that everything was created through Jesus.
 - The Bible says that Jesus does the will of the Father.
 - He carries out God's plan.
 - That means, when God the Father spoke, "let there be light," Jesus is the one who brought light.
 - Colossians 1:16 says:
 - **"For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible..."** Colossians 1:16
 - John says:
 - **All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made."**
 - Jesus created all things, according to the Father's will.
- You may be saying, "This is great, but what's the point?"
 - "Why is John telling us all this?"
 - Here's the point:
 - In these verses, John is retelling the creation story from Genesis 1, and showing how Jesus is recreating the world, in John 1.
 - John uses the phrase, "In the beginning."



- Which you also find in Genesis 1.
- **“In the beginning, God created...”** Genesis 1:1
- John also speaks about light, which is repeated several times in Genesis 1.
- And just as God breathed life into Adam, now Jesus is seen as the one, bringing spiritual life.
- The problem is that creation was corrupted by sin.
 - Sin brought death and pain.
 - But John is saying that Jesus the Word, who is God, who was with God, who created made everything, has come to redeem the world, and to bring new life.
 - God made the world in Genesis 1, and it was ruined by sin.
 - But Jesus has now come in John 1, to make all things new.
 - Jesus removes your sin and shame, and brings new life.
- That’s exactly what happened to the Samaritan woman in John 4.
 - She would draw water at noon, at the hottest time of day, because she wanted to avoid people.
 - She felt judged by others.
 - She had 5 husbands, and the man she was currently living with, wasn’t her husband.
 - She was ashamed about her past.
 - But then she met Jesus.
 - And when she realized who he was, when she experienced his love, she went into town, and began to proclaim to all the people, **“Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did?”** John 4:29
 - And through her testimony, many people came to believe in Jesus.



- This woman, was no longer hiding in her shame.
- She was rejoicing in her new life in Christ.
- In John 10:10 Jesus says:
 - **“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”** John 10:10
 - Jesus doesn’t just give life
 - He gives abundant life.
 - It’s more than quantity
 - He gives quality of life.
 - He increases your capacity for joy, and peace, and hope, and love.
- A few months ago, we had to buy a new water heater.
 - The old one started leaking.
 - On top of that, it was also a small tank.
 - And since I have three kids, by the time the third kid took a shower, they had to be quick, cause the other two took all the hot water.
 - And so, we got a bigger tank.
 - Now, all three can take long hot showers.
- Before becoming a follower of Christ, in limited measure, you can experience, joy, and peace, and love, comfort.
 - You can take quick showers.
 - But when you come to Jesus, he gives you a bigger tank.
 - And he enables you to experience abundant life.
 - He’s able to heal what’s broken inside of you, and make you whole.
 - He’s able to remove the shame, and give you hope.
 - He’s able to calm the anxious heart.
 - He’s able to restore joy, even when there’s sorrow.
 - He’s able to give you power, over your addictions.



- He's able to give you security, so you don't have to look for praise from others.
 - He's able to turn your wounds, into testimonies of grace.
 - He's able to give true life in him
- Here we see, the abundant life, that Jesus the Word, who was with God, who is God, who is now remaking the world, offers to us.

Point 2:

- Second, we see from our passage, the darkness that Jesus overcomes.
- One of the main themes in the Gospel of John, is the theme of light and darkness.
 - But for us to understand the light of Jesus Christ, we first need to understand, what the Bible says about darkness.
- Jesus says in John 8:12, that those who walk in darkness don't know where they're going.
 - This means that people are spiritually blind.
 - Darkness keeps people from seeing the sin in their heart.
 - That's why, when the crowds were crucifying Jesus on the cross, he said:
 - **“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”** Luke 23:34
 - The people had no idea they were sinning against God.
 - Picture the crowds, spitting at Jesus, laughing at Jesus, mocking Jesus, even watching him suffer.
 - They were crucifying the one and only Son of God, and they had no idea.



- Not only do people who walk in darkness, not know where they're going, they also don't know what they're doing.
- Darkness keeps us from seeing our sin.
- And because mankind is blind to sin, they're also slaves to sin.
 - In John 3:19, John says that people love the darkness more than the light, because their works are evil.
 - To be a slave could mean that you're trapped against your will.
 - At the same time, to be a slave could also mean that you're controlled by your addiction.
 - And you're unwilling to seek help, even though help is available for you.
 - That's what slavery to sin is.
 - You're unable to free yourself, not because you're trying to free yourself, but because your heart is tied to sin.
 - People love darkness more than light.
 - Darkness keeps us bound to sin.
- Not only are you blind to sin, not only are the bound to sin, but darkness also means your death in sin.
 - If your phone loses power, and dies, it can't receive any calls.
 - It can't receive any texts.
 - No matter what you do, it can't respond.
 - It's dead.
 - That's what darkness is.
 - It means, people are dead in sin.
 - They have no power to save themselves.
 - And they have no power to respond to God.
 - They can't hear or know God's word.



- I usually drop off my older son in the morning at school.
 - There's a long line of cars, when we get to the school.
 - Sometimes, the line moves fast.
 - And sometimes the line moves slow.
 - And when there's a slowdown with the cars in front, traffic slows down.
 - But imagine this.
 - I come to drop off my son, and the line isn't moving at all.
 - Time is ticking and my son is going to be late for school.
 - And so, I go to the lead car, and see why they aren't moving, and the person says, "I've become blind. I'm sorry but I can't move. I can't see."
 - And then I might think, "Okay, well if I can get the second car to move, then maybe we can all get by."
 - But when I go to the second car, the person says, "My hands are tied behind my back. I'm bound, and I can't seem to get them free."
 - Unable to free the second person, I go to the third car, and the person isn't even speaking.
 - In fact, they're not even breathing.
 - I realize the person has died.
- This is picture of what darkness is
 - Darkness blinds us to sin.
 - Darkness binds us to sin.
 - And darkness makes us, dead in sin.
- But the good news we see in this passage is that Jesus is the light that shines in the darkness.
 - Listen to verses 4 and 5.
 - **"In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."** John 1:4-5



- For Jesus to shine his light into our world means that Jesus reveals the glory of God.
 - No one has seen God.
 - No one is able to see God.
 - But Jesus Christ, has made God known.
 - Verse 18 states:
 - **“No one has ever seen God; the only God who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.”** John 1:18
- Jesus opens up our mind, so that when we read God’s word, we begin to see God and hear his voice.
 - When we were blind, and bound, and dead, we had no power to receive God’s word.
 - But through Jesus Christ, we’re able to receive and see the glory of God.
 - Jesus opens our eyes, to see the living God.
- And it’s when we look to God, that we can see our sin, and our need for a Savior.
 - In Isaiah 6, though the prophet Isaiah didn’t see the full picture of God, he saw the train of God’s robe.
 - He saw a glimpse of God’s glory.
 - And even this glimpse of God’s glory caused him to see his sin.
 - He cried out:
 - **“Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lip...”** Isaiah 6:5
- If you want to see your sin, you need to first see the holiness of God.



- Because that's when you'll see your need for a Savior.
- That's when you'll cry out, "Woe is me, for I am lost, I am a man, I am a woman, of unclean lips."
- What is light?
- It's the glory of God, that leads us to see our sin, and our need for a Savior.
- In John chapter 3, John tells us about a man named Nicodemus.
 - He was a man of prestige, and wealth, and great learning.
 - Jesus calls him, the teacher of Israel.
 - But with all his knowledge, he was missing the most important point of the Bible.
 - He failed to see the glory of God and his need for a Savior.
 - But Jesus opened his eyes, and changed his life.
 - In John chapter 3, Nicodemus came to Jesus at night, in the dark, to avoid being seen by others.
 - He didn't want the other teachers of the law, seeing him with Jesus.
 - But in John chapter 19, Nicodemus brought myrrh, and boldly buried Jesus' body.
 - He was able to see, that more than a teacher, he needed a Savior.
- The most important question you can ask yourself today after leaving church isn't:
 - "Did I learn something new?"
 - "Or did I meet new friends?"
 - "Or did I like the music?"
 - Rather, the most important question you need to ask is this:
 - "Did I meet with Jesus Christ?"
 - "Did I draw near to him and hear his voice?"



- “Did I see his glory and worship him?”
- Jesus is the light that shines in darkness.
 - He opens our eyes, to see the glory of God.
 - He unbinds us, so that, we not only see our sin, but also see Jesus, who can save us from our sins.
 - And he gives us new life.
 - So that, being born again, we can worship and give him glory.
- And the way Jesus shines his light is by coming to us, and dwelling with us.
 - Listen to verse 14.
 - **“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”** John 1:14
 - This word to, dwell, literally means to pitch a tent.
 - And John is saying to us, just as Moses saw the glory of God in the tabernacle tent, now God’s presence has returned to be with his people.
 - The glory of God was with his people when they travelled in the wilderness.
 - The glory of God filled the tabernacle.
 - And then when the temple was built by King Solomon, we’re told the glory of God filled the temple.
 - God’s presence was with his people.
 - But God’s people continued to sin.
 - They kept turning away from him.
 - And in Ezekial 10 and 11, you see the glory of God leaving the temple.
 - And for years, the people were wondering if God would once again send his glory.



- And here we see how Jesus is the glory of God, now dwelling with us.
- Even more, Jesus didn't come in a glory cloud, but it says he came in the flesh.
 - John could've said that Jesus came in human form, or that he possessed a body.
 - But he says that Jesus came in the flesh.
 - The flesh has to do with human weakness.
 - And John is saying that Jesus was born in human frailty.
 - This doesn't mean he ceased to be God.
 - But it means he experienced weariness, and pain, and sorrow, and grief.
 - He came to know our weaknesses, to dwell in us, and to suffering on the cross.
 - So that, we could have life.
- If you are a follower of Christ, you're no longer dead in sin, but alive in Christ.
 - And Jesus Christ is now living in you.
 - He came in the flesh, to dwell with you, to dwell in you.
 - Paul says:
 - **"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."** Galatians 2:20
- Here we see, the darkness that Jesus overcomes.

Point 3:



- Third, we see from our passage the faith Jesus invites you to embrace.
- For some Christians, even though they know the gospel.
 - Even though they know that Jesus died and rose again.
 - Even though they know they have new life in Christ.
 - They still have a hard time, connecting the gospel to their life.
 - Just like Frank and Joan, in the beginning of this sermon.
 - There seems to be a disconnect between their actual life, and the abundant life that Jesus offers.
- One reason for that is because more than temporal happiness, and earthly comfort, we forget that Jesus is mainly concerned with making us holy.
 - Listen what Christian author Paul Tripp writes:
 - “He (God) will do whatever he needs to produce holiness in us. He wants us to be a community of joy, but he is willing to compromise our temporal happiness in order to increase our Christlikeness. Any time we find ourselves in difficulty or trial, it is easy to think we have been forgotten or rejected by God. This is because we do not understand the present process. God is not working for our comfort and ease; he is working on our growth.” (Lane and Tripp, How People Change, 6-7)
- If you’re going through a time of trial, a good prayer for you would be, “Lord, help me to learn, what you want me to learn.”
 - Of course we can also pray, “let this trial pass from me.”
 - But we also need to pray:
 - “Help me to see, how I need to grow?”
 - “Help me to learn.



- And when you pray this prayer, and entrust your trial to Christ, that's when you'll begin to experience his peace.
- **“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”**
Philippians 4:6-7
- Another reason we don't experience the abundant life is because we forget how deep our sin is.
 - When faced with the holiness of God, we'll see how self-righteous we are.
 - And how we trust more in how much we do, or our identity in this world, or how much we know.
 - But when you look at the Bible, those who experience a greater measure of love, and peace, and hope, and joy in Christ, aren't those who do more, or know more, or have a higher position.
 - Rather, those who experience the abundant life in Christ, are those who have a deeper view of their sin.
 - Because when you see how deep your sin is, you'll also see how Christ's grace is even deeper.
 - And the more you see his grace, the more you'll seek him, and look to him, and trust in him, and worship him.
- In Luke 7, we're told that Jesus was eating at the house of a Pharisee.
 - And a woman came, who was a sinner.
 - And she wet Jesus' feet with her tears, and wiped them with her hair, and kissed his feet, and then anointed his feet with ointment.



- And as this was happening, Simon the Pharisee began to think to himself, ***“If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner.”*** Luke 7:39
- He thought he was better than this woman.
- He thought God couldn’t love a person like her.
- But Jesus tells Simon:
- **“You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.”** And he said to her, **“Your sins are forgiven.”** Luke 7:46-38
- When Jesus came to this world, many people rejected him, because they didn’t see who he was.
 - Because they didn’t see the darkness that was inside of them.
 - But let’s not deny the truth.
 - Let’s stop pretending we’re better than others.
 - Rather, let’s confess our sins, and receive him, and put our faith in him.
 - And we’ll see how is grace covers over all our sin.
 - Even our deepest sin.
- **“The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”** John 1:9-13



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