

I Am: Part 12

I AM the Light of the World

Pastor James Bell

John 8:12 NLT

12 Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, “I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.”

All throughout scripture we have seen and heard about light and darkness. And we know for a fact that light overcomes darkness. But before it overcomes, it must be available. We can have electricity but without a bulb we are still in the dark. We can have a bulb but no electricity and we are still in the dark. The very thing that is missing for so many “Christians” is they lack the follow part.

If we could first bring the emphasize needed to understand light before we stress the importance of following. So often it seemed as if Jesus spoke in riddles with His parables and through His miraculous signs. But Jesus already said it would this way because it fulfills prophecy.

Matthew 13:11–15 NLT

11 He replied, “You are permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven, but others are not. 12 To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given, and they will have an abundance of knowledge. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them. 13 That is why I use these parables, For they look, but they don’t really see. They hear, but they don’t really listen or understand. 14 This fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah that says, ‘When you hear what I say, you will not understand. When you see what I do, you will not comprehend. 15 For the hearts of these people are hardened, and their ears cannot hear, and they have closed their eyes— so their eyes cannot see, and their ears cannot hear, and their hearts cannot understand, and they cannot turn to me and let me heal them.’

The words that Jesus spoke were so meticulous and purposeful. Jesus did not speak idol words. His every word that we read was always pointing us to the heart of the Father. Jesus’s words were not His own. God is spirit and the way to understand is not by human efforts. Jesus continually said, “Those that have an ear to hear, let

them hear what the “Spirit” is saying to the church. His words are spiritual. That means it is beyond our humanized understanding.

Jesus tells us plainly what light is in John 9, turn with me to John 9:1-5

John 9:1–5 NLT

1 As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. 2 “Rabbi,” his disciples asked him, “why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents’ sins?” 3 “It was not because of his sins or his parents’ sins,” Jesus answered. “This happened so the power of God could be seen in him. 4 We must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the one who sent us. The night is coming, and then no one can work. 5 But while I am here in the world, I am the light of the world.”

John chapter 9 is a continuation from John chapter 7 as this was the festival of shelters. Jesus had just made his proclamation of “I Am the Light of the World” and exposing the hearts of many people who claimed to be children of Abraham. Jesus comes across a blind man and this seems to be just another blind man that Jesus addresses and heals but remember there are Spiritual Truths in everything Jesus does and says.

The man was not blind because of his sin or his parent's sins. He was born blind so that God could be glorified. God is glorified when His word is in motion. This man was blind from birth as we are born spiritually blind from birth. No fault of our own or our parents. It was because of the fail of man. Blindness is the absence of sight but if we look deeper to bring clarity to the matter, it is the absence of visibility. The inability to recognize what is in front of us. The blind man had no understanding of Jesus but his understanding begin as he started with obeying the simple command to wash off the mud on his eyes. But this is only the beginning. His faith started with obeying but continued to grow.

John 9:10–12 NLT

10 They asked, “Who healed you? What happened?” 11 He told them, “The man they call Jesus made mud and spread it over my eyes and told me, ‘Go to the pool of Siloam and wash yourself.’ So I went and washed, and now I can see!” 12 “Where is he now?” they asked. “I don’t know,” he replied.

Notice that right after He is healed that people begin to interrogate him. His understanding of Jesus was foreign. He identified Jesus as “The man they call Jesus”.

John 9:13–17 NLT

13 Then they took the man who had been blind to the Pharisees, 14 because it was on the Sabbath that Jesus had made the mud and healed him. 15 The Pharisees asked the man all about it. So he told them, “He put the mud over my eyes, and when I washed it away, I could see!” 16 Some of the Pharisees said, “This man Jesus is not from God, for he is working on the Sabbath.” Others said, “But how could an ordinary sinner do such miraculous signs?” So there was a deep division of opinion among them. 17 Then the Pharisees again questioned the man who had been blind and demanded, “What’s your opinion about this man who healed you?” The man replied, “I think he must be a prophet.”

As the interrogation continues his faith moves from who people call “the man Jesus” to “Jesus is a prophet”. And in the midst of his faith increasing the Pharisee’s is casting doubt. They try to get the man to question the works. But in spite of what they are saying his sight is becoming clearer and clearer.

John 9:24–33 NLT

24 So for the second time they called in the man who had been blind and told him, “God should get the glory for this, because we know this man Jesus is a sinner.” 25 “I don’t know whether he is a sinner,” the man replied. “But I know this: I was blind, and now I can see!” 26 “But what did he do?” they asked. “How did he heal you?” 27 “Look!” the man exclaimed. “I told you once. Didn’t you listen? Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?” 28 Then they cursed him and said, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses! 29 We know God spoke to Moses, but we don’t even know where this man comes from.” 30 “Why, that’s very strange!” the man replied. “He healed my eyes, and yet you don’t know where he comes from? 31 We know that God doesn’t listen to sinners, but he is ready to hear those who worship him and do his will. 32 Ever since the world began, no one has been able to open the eyes of someone born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, he couldn’t have done it.”

I was blind but now I see! His heart was fixated on the fact that his life was changed. he was one way and now he is another. And the Pharisee’s wanted to understand how the man was one way and now he is another. When we surrender our lives to God, the ordinary person doesn't understand how I was one way yesterday but now I'm another way today. You tell them that you were once blind but now you see and they don't understand it. Explaining how you were a total sinner yesterday and today you are a child of God is not what can be explained.

This mans faith begin to speak louder and louder! So loud that he calls out the blindness of the Pharisee’s. Look at verse 31. John 9:31 “31 We know that God

doesn't listen to sinners, but he is ready to hear those who worship him and do his will." Worship and do his will! The pharisee's claimed to be disciples of Moses while acknowledging that the man was a follower of Jesus.

If we recall back to the words Jesus spoke in John 8:12

John 8:12 NLT

12 Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."

The once blind man was given physical sight but led way to a much greater sight. The eyes of his heart was opened to the reality of true sight. If you can recall something I said earlier in this message is that blindness is the absence of sight but on a much deeper level it is the absence of visibility. The lack of perceiving what is in front of us.

John 9:35–41 NLT

35 When Jesus heard what had happened, he found the man and asked, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" 36 The man answered, "Who is he, sir? I want to believe in him." 37 "You have seen him," Jesus said, "and he is speaking to you!" 38 "Yes, Lord, I believe!" the man said. And he worshiped Jesus. 39 Then Jesus told him, "I entered this world to render judgment—to give sight to the blind and to show those who think they see that they are blind." 40 Some Pharisees who were standing nearby heard him and asked, "Are you saying we're blind?" 41 "If you were blind, you wouldn't be guilty," Jesus replied. "But you remain guilty because you claim you can see.

The progression of the mans faith is a mirror of what light will do to those who follow. The following that the once blind man did was he obeyed the simple command to wash the mud off of his eyes. And because he realized the fruits of his obedience his vision became clearer and clearer. His revelation of Jesus became more apparent with each stance of his faith. And now he is standing before Jesus and wants to know his beyond the one who gave him sight. Beyond the one that people call Jesus. Beyond the perceiving of a prophet. He would now come to know Jesus as Messiah.

Jesus then declared that He has entered this world to render judgement. Remember that Jesus said "I Am the light of the world"? The light of his character is judgement. To illuminate the paths of those that will follow him. And to remain hidden from those that think they can see.

John 12:35–36 NLT

35 Walk in the light while you can, so the darkness will not overtake you. Those who walk in the darkness cannot see where they are going. 36 Put your trust in the light while there is still time; then you will become children of the light.” After saying these things, Jesus went away and was hidden from them.

Imaging with me for just a moment: If you turn on the porch light then where is it illuminated at? The porch right! How about if I give you a flashlight at night and you mount that light on something but you walk away from the flashlight. As you walk away from that source of light, your ability to see becomes less and less. But as you get closer to the light you can see clearer and clearer. If we follow Jesus then our journey is filled with His light. It’s when we stray from Him that we begin to operate in darkness.

John 3:18–21 NLT

18 “There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God’s one and only Son. 19 And the judgment is based on this fact: God’s light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. 20 All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. 21 But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants.”

1 John 1:5–7 NLT

5 This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. 6 So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. 7 But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.

In Closing:

Matthew 5:14–16 NLT

14 “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. 15 No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Let me pray with you!

