



S E R M O N G U I D E

**I'm Still Lit**

*John 8:12*

**INTRODUCTION**

**NOTES**

One of the greatest challenges we face as humans is figuring out how to keep the torch of our lives lit while we are trying to run our race. So many people, start this race filled with hope, optimism, and determination, but then somewhere along the way, the flame that lights their lives goes out. Extinguished by hardship, trauma, or racism. Extinguished by trying to survive in a world of diminishing finances. Their light gets snuffed out of them by violence, depression, addiction, and a lack of proper support. In many ways, the world in which we live has a way of blowing out our light. Is your light still shining? What has “dimmed” your light, so to speak? As a follower of Christ, your light never has to burn out because nothing the world can throw at you is dark enough to put out the light of Christ. And He wants you to use that light to shine in and through you as you continue to run your race. In this message, I want us to look at three ways Jesus models for us what it means to remain lit in the midst of life’s darkness.

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**KEY POINTS**

**1. When You Stay Lit, You Expose Hypocrisy**

Jesus made this statement about being the light of the world after the scribes and Pharisees brought him a woman they said was caught in the very act of adultery. They made her stand before the people in the temple while they debated Scripture and discussed whether she should be stoned to death.

The irony in light of their moral pretensions is that they really weren’t concerned about this woman’s life. According to verse 6, their only interest was religious politics so they could bring a charge against Jesus. These men were using this woman and her body as a site to pursue power. For if they were really concerned about her marriage and morality, they would have brought the man she was allegedly caught with to be stoned as well.

Noticing this interesting omission, Jesus calls their bluff and says, “ok...you can stone her, but he who has not committed this sin can cast the first stone.” That’s when things got quiet. They had to drop their stones one by one because they had sinned themselves. They were hypocrites. And so when Jesus says He is the light of the world, He is saying that His light exposes the hypocrisy in the world.

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**2. When You Stay Lit, You’re Empowered For Daily Living**

The thing about light is that it can be harnessed as a source of power. And the way Jesus treats the woman in John 8, during a time in her life when she needed it most, was a source of empowerment. This woman lived at the mercy of a culture that treated her unfairly, and at a time when she could have been abandoned, left to live her life on the margins of society, and left for dead, Jesus picked her up.

As the light of the world, Jesus makes it clear that you don’t have to let the darkness around you defeat you. Don’t ever let the darkness in the world dim the light of your soul. Don’t let people, politicians, and unjust practices prevent you from progressing towards your purpose. It does not matter who the Pharisees are in your life. Don’t let them cause you to give up and throw in the towel. As a child of God, you have a source of power that cannot be overcome.

**3. When You Stay Lit, You Brighten The Path**

When Jesus said in John 8, “I am the light of the world,” He was also saying that He brightens the path along which we must walk. When a light shines, it illuminates. It brightens dim and dark places making passage much easier. Jesus is saying He does the same.

Jesus wants the woman in John 8 to leave this encounter with Him realizing that she now has a clear alternative for how she might live. She doesn’t have to internalize or listen to the darkness around her. She does not have to let the men who mean her no good continue to use her. She is now able to walk a new walk because she can now see what she could not see before. The path and the trajectory of her life have been lit up by the light that Jesus brings. Jesus steps in right on time and shows her a way of being she didn’t know was possible.

And the same exact experience is available to you and me when we allow the light of Jesus to illuminate our lives. Just like John 8:12 says, “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.’”

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**QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

1. What has dimmed the light in your life recently?
2. What is one area of your life where you need the power of God to help you right now?
3. Do you relate at all to the woman in John 8? If so, how?

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