

Jesus, The Light of The World

John 8:12-20



John 8:12-20

12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." 13 So the Pharisees said to him, "You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true." 14 Jesus answered, "Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. 15 You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. 16 Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. 17 In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true. 18 I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me." 19 They said to him therefore, "Where is your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also." 20 These words he spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple; but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

1. Jesus is the Only Light of the World (John 8:12)

- John describes Jesus as “the light” twenty-two times in the book of John.
 - John 1:4-9
 - John 3:19-21
 - John 8:12
 - John 9:5
 - John 12:46

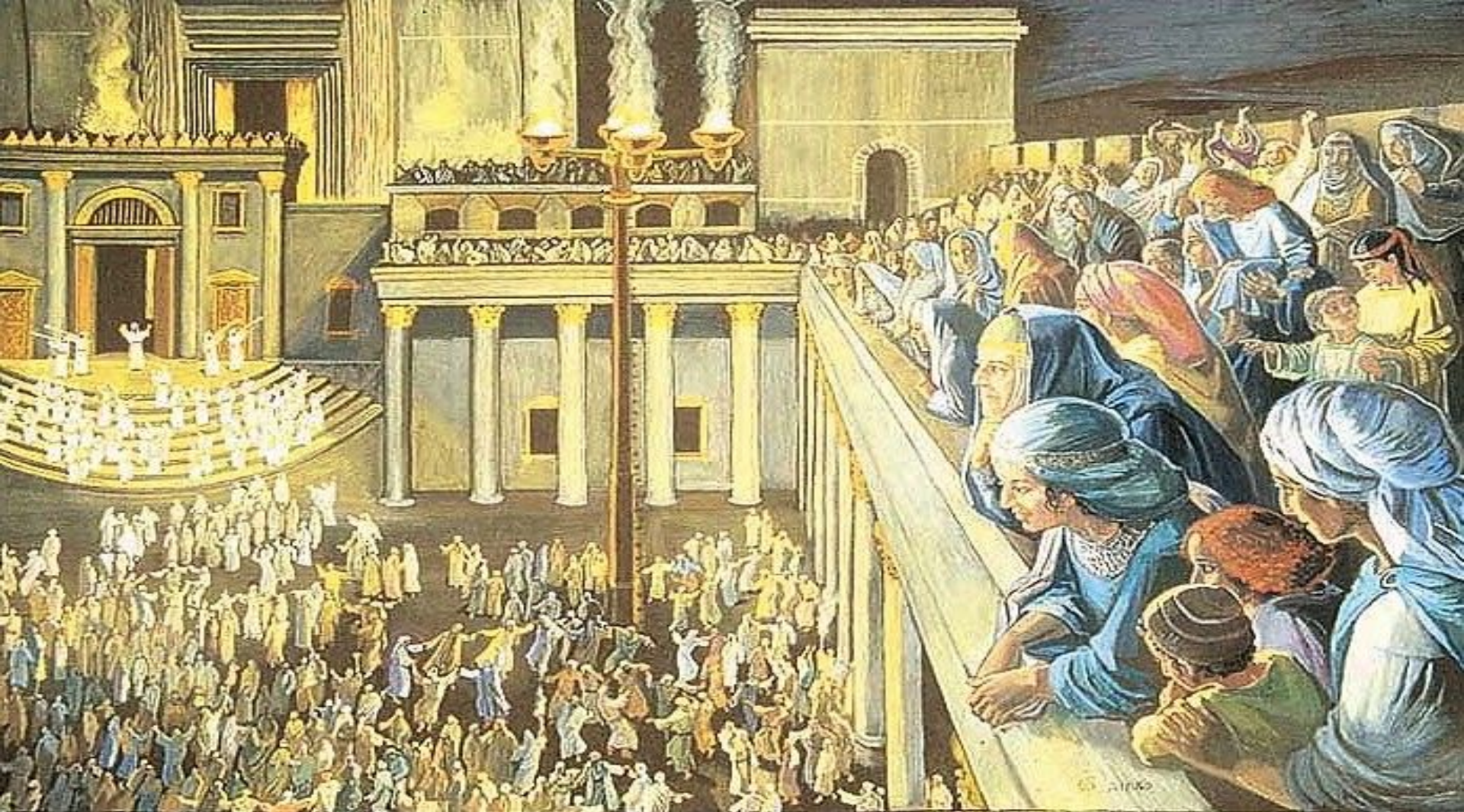
The Feast of Tabernacles

- The feast was a time of reflection for the Jewish people as they look back and remember the 40 years in the wilderness when God provided and protected their ancestors.
- During this festival, they would make booths or shelter, just like the former had as they walked in the desert on the way to the promised land. They would live in them and sleep in them for seven days.



Illumination of the Lights

- The lighting of 4 golden lamps (Menorahs)
- It was to remind the people of the pillar of fire that had guided Israel in their wilderness journey.



“I Am The Light of the World”

Jesus just proclaimed:

- I am the one who guided your ancestors throughout the wilderness as a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night!
- They would have remembered Isaiah 49, a Messianic text, which says the Messiah would be: “a light for the nations” therefore, Jesus here is saying I am your promised Messiah.
- They would have heard the title “I Am the Light of the World” as identifying Jesus as God! (Ps. 27:1)

2. Light Bearers for Jesus

- As a follower of Jesus, how much light are you reflecting to the world around you?
- God has given each and everyone of us a light. It's burning within us! Don't put the light out. Don't suppress it. Don't let it go dim!

Mt. Sinai's Pathway and Process of Discipleship

- Congregation
- Community
- Core
- Crowd
 - The crowd is where we go out into the world into our everyday lives and live as everyday missionaries! As God's light bearers to the World full of darkness.

The Crowd: VBS

1. Memorize the theme verse (John 8:12)!
2. Pray over VBS!
 - Pray for the kids in our community who are unchurched to join us for VBS
 - Pray for our leaders that we will commission here in a few moments
 - Pray that many kids, youth and adults would hear the truth of the gospel and respond in faith!
 - Pray our theme verse over VBS. That the light of Jesus would call many people out of the darkness of sin and rebellion into the true light, which is a daily relationship with Jesus!

The Crowd: VBS

3. Shine your light for VBS!

- How can you help and assist in preparations this evening/week?

4. Who can you invite to VBS?

- Who are the families in your life with young children or youth that VBS would be the perfect time to invite them to church?
- Simply say, "My church is having VBS next week. There will be a free meal at each event and there will be a lot of fun interactive things for the kids to enjoy as they learn about Jesus! I would love for you and your family to join us."

