# Good News: The Light of the World

Jesus leads the world out of death and darkness into life!

## The Light of the World

**(Read Aloud)**
**John 8:1-12 New Living Translation**
8 Jesus returned to the Mount of Olives, 2 but early the next morning he was
back again at the Temple. A crowd soon gathered, and he sat down and taught
them. 3 As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees
brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in
front of the crowd. 4 “Teacher,” they said to Jesus, “this woman was caught in the
act of adultery. 5 The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?”
6 They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him,
but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. 7 They kept
demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, “All right, but let the one
who has never sinned throw the first stone!” 8 Then he stooped down again and
wrote in the dust. 9 When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one,
beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with
the woman. 10 Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, “Where are
your accusers? Didn’t even one of them condemn you?” 11 “No, Lord,” she said.
And Jesus said, “Neither do I. Go and sin no more.” 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.”

- Like the woman caught in the act of adultery, we have all been caught in our sins as well. Not one of us is innocent. We have all walked in and partaken of the darkness in this world.
- But listen again to the words of Jesus:
- **John 8:12 New Living Translation**
  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.”
- “ I am the light of the world” = Introduces Himself as the light of the world.
- “If you follow me” = There is a decision we must all make.

- “You won’t have to walk in darkness” = Everyone who doesn’t follow Him can only walk in the darkness.
- “Because you will have the light that leads to life.” = Jesus Himself is the light we will have if we choose to follow Him. He is taking us out of the darkness of sin and death, into life eternal with Him.

## The Darkness

**John 3:16-21 New Living Translation**
16 “For this is how God loved the world: He gave[a] his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. 17 God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. 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.[b]”

**2 Corinthians 4:3-4 New Living Translation**
3 If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are perishing. 4 Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don’t understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.

- It’s not that people don’t want to believe; they can’t!
- They have been blinded by Satan and live in spiritual darkness.
- The problem with only having physical sight in a world that's both physical and spiritual is that you don't know you're blind!

**Ephesians 2:1-3 New Living Translation**
2 Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. 2 You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world.[a] He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. 3 All of us used to live that way,

following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else.

- How do we know there is darkness and spiritual blindness?
- How else could people walk around God's creation living in total rebellion without fear?

## Our Assignment

**Acts 26:12-18 New Living Translation**
12 "One day I was on such a mission to Damascus, armed with the authority and commission of the leading priests. 13 About noon, Your Majesty, as I was on the road, a light from heaven brighter than the sun shone down on me and my companions. 14 We all fell down, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic,[a] 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is useless for you to fight against my will.[b]' 15 "'Who are you, lord?' I asked. "And the Lord replied, 'I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting. 16 Now get to your feet! For I have appeared to you to appoint you as my servant and witness. Tell people that you have seen me, and tell them what I will show you in the future. 17 And I will rescue you from both your own people and the Gentiles. Yes, I am sending you to the Gentiles 18 to open their eyes, so they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God. Then they will receive forgiveness for their sins and be given a place among God's people, who are set apart by faith in me.'

- No goodness without God.

## Receive Your Sight

**Luke 18:35-42 New Living Translation**
35 As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind beggar was sitting beside the road. 36 When he heard the noise of a crowd going past, he asked what was happening. 37 They told him that Jesus the Nazarene[a] was going by. 38 So he began shouting, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" 39 "Be quiet!" the people in front yelled at him. But he only shouted louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" 40 When Jesus heard him, he stopped and ordered that the man be brought to him. As the man came near, Jesus asked him, 41 "What do you want me to do

for you?” “Lord,” he said, “I want to see!” 42 And Jesus said, “All right, receive your sight! Your faith has healed you.”

- At some point every soul must cry out from its darkness to Jesus.
- Before a soul may be saved and set free from darkness, it must hear before it sees.
- Faith comes by hearing!

**Romans 10:13-15 New Living Translation**
13 For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”[a]
14 But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? 15 And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, “How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!”[b]

**Matthew 4:12-17 New Living Translation**
12 When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he left Judea and returned to Galilee. 13 He went first to Nazareth, then left there and moved to Capernaum, beside the Sea of Galilee, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. 14 This fulfilled what God said through the prophet Isaiah:
15 “In the land of Zebulun and of Naphtali,
beside the sea, beyond the Jordan River,
in Galilee where so many Gentiles live,
16 the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light.
And for those who lived in the land where death casts its shadow,
a light has shined.”[a] 17 From then on Jesus began to preach, “Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.[b]”

- **John 14:6 New Living Translation**
- Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.
- Jesus is the way, and He uses the truth to bring people into life.
- Repent = change your mind
- Be baptized = Rid yourself of the old nature, and receive the Holy Spirit

## Heart Conditions

**Matthew 13:1-23 New Living Translation**

13 Later that same day Jesus left the house and sat beside the lake. 2 A large
crowd soon gathered around him, so he got into a boat. Then he sat there and
taught as the people stood on the shore. 3 He told many stories in the form of
parables, such as this one: “Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seeds. 4 As
he scattered them across his field, some seeds fell on a footpath, and the birds
came and ate them. 5 Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The
seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. 6 But the plants soon
wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn’t have deep roots, they died. 7
Other seeds fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants. 8
Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty,
and even a hundred times as much as had been planted! 9 Anyone with ears to
hear should listen and understand.” 10 His disciples came and asked him, “Why
do you use parables when you talk to the people?” 11 He replied, “You are
permitted to understand the secrets[a] 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.’[b]

16 “But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. 17 I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but they didn’t see it. And they longed to hear what you hear, but they didn’t hear it. 18 “Now listen to the explanation of the parable about the farmer planting seeds: 19 The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message about the Kingdom and don’t understand it. Then the evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts. 20 The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. 21 But since they don’t have deep roots, they don’t last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God’s word. 22 The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear God’s word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth, so no fruit is produced. 23 The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God’s word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!”

**Acts 16:13-14 New Living Translation**
13 On the Sabbath we went a little way outside the city to a riverbank, where we thought people would be meeting for prayer, and we sat down to speak with some women who had gathered there. 14 One of them was Lydia from Thyatira, a merchant of expensive purple cloth, who worshiped God. As she listened to us, the Lord opened her heart, and she accepted what Paul was saying.

**Acts 2:36-41 New Living Translation**
36 “So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!” 37 Peter’s words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” 38 Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away[a]—all who have been called by the Lord our God.” 40 Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!” 41 Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.

## Faith Come!

- We know that sinners have the capacity to hear; they just can't see!
- So we must pray for faith to come through the words we share, so that their blinders will fall off!

**Ephesians 1:15-23 New Living Translation Paul's Prayer for Spiritual Wisdom**

15 Ever since I first heard of your strong faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for God's people everywhere,[a] 16 I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, 17 asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom[b] and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. 18 I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance.[c] 19 I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power 20 that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. 21 Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. 22 God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. 23 And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself

**Ephesians 3:14-19 New Living Translation**

14 When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father,[a] 15 the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth.[b] 16 I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. 17 Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. 18 And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. 19 May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.