

- Update: Loving and serving locally and globally
 - Providing our local outreach partners with covid test kits. This has allowed them to continue to serve the most vulnerable in our city as well as provide test kits for those they are loving and serving.
 - Globally we have partnered with HOPE international to provide relief for those affected by the war in Ukraine.

Introduction:

- Just Mercy Film
 - When light begins to shine and begins to reveal it is not always embraced. Light sometimes causes offense and discomfort when it shines.
- When light shines into your life what is your response? Are you offended by what the light reveals?
 - What if Jesus shined his light upon your life, and revealed the areas that needed to be illuminated for change to come into your life?

Main Idea: Jesus is the light of the world, whose light illuminates our life and the path that leads to fullness of life.

Scripture Reading: John 8

- V:1-11 The religious leaders attempted to put a woman caught in adultery on public trial, as a means to bring a charge against him. Instead, Jesus illuminates the sin in the religious leaders and brings restoration to the woman instead.
- V:12-59 Jesus then turns his attention toward the religious leaders, the Pharisees, and begins to illuminate the areas in their lives. He illuminates their understanding of Himself-God the Father and themselves.

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” John 8:12

Body

1. **I am the Light of the World:** Jesus is the light that illuminates humanity's path by which true life is gained, to a world alienated from God and opposed to God because of sin.
 - a. V: 14-24
 - i. Jesus reveals how little the Pharisees know about him and how their lack of understanding leads them to make false judgments.
 - ii. Jesus reveals that their unbelief in who he is condemns them to their sin and death.
 - b. V: 31-38
 - i. Jesus reveals the reality of remaining in sin. He reveals how people remaining in sin are under the illusion of freedom unaware of their enslavement toward sin and therefore, unable to escape the life-controlling power of sin.
 - ii. Jesus illuminates that true freedom is to no longer be a slave to sin but to be free from the power of sin.

- iii. Jesus reveals that the condition of their hearts prevents them from being unable to understand and receive the truth. (V:37:43)
 - c. V:47:54-55
 - i. Jesus reveals their self-deception in relationship to God. "You have not known him".
 - d. V:51-53
 - i. Jesus reveals his claim over death.
- These are outrageous claims to be made if Jesus is just another religious leader among them. That is why they asked, who are you? Who do you make yourself out to be?
 - e. V:54-59
 - i. Jesus claims to be more than just a religious leader by calling God His Father and claiming the title **I AM**. Jesus is claiming to be God eternal who appeared before Moses and revealed himself as I AM WHO I AM.
 - ii. Throughout all these light revealing moments the Jews insulted Jesus. They called him a Samaritan which was a cultural insult. They claimed he had a demon. Lastly, their outrage leads them to pick up rocks ready to stone him.

Application: When light shines into your life what is your response? Are you offended by what the light reveals? When light shines into your life lay down offence. Jesus' light shining in our life is meant to lead us to freedom.

2. **Whoever Follows Me:** The invitation is to whoever-no matter who. The invitation is to follow him
 - a. The invitation is to whoever-no matter who
 - i. The religious often accused Jesus, "He eats with Tax-Collectors and sinners". Jesus had a no matter who mindset approach. His invitation still remains the same. WHOEVER.
 - b. The invitation is to follow Jesus
 - i. Jesus invites us into a relationship with him, to walk with him and learn from him. A life of discipleship, following in his steps and experiencing the fullness of life found in a relationship with God.

Transition: Jesus is the light that illuminates the path by which one arrives at life. Last week P.Sam mentioned that the life Jesus describes, is a life of vitality, it is the absolute fullness of life and it can't be found anywhere either than in relationship with God. We were alienated from this life with God as a consequence of our sin but Jesus brings us to this life with God when we believe. Jesus illuminates what true life really is.

3. **Will Not Walk in Darkness:** The darkness referred to here is representative of sin and humanity's condition of moral and spiritual wickedness. Therefore the command as followers of Jesus and what comes into question is how we conduct our lives.

- a. Jesus revealed a powerful truth and a new reality for us. By declaring "whoever follows me will not walk in darkness-will not walk in sin", because we are no longer slaves to sin, instead we now walk in freedom from sin.
 - i. Absolute fullness of life is freedom **(Ephesians 2:1-10)**

"Grace is not simply leniency when we have sinned.

Grace is the enabling gift of God not to sin.

Grace is power, not just pardon."

-John Piper

Illustration: Misleading cleaning. Clean the house but sweep everything under the rug.

Application: Are you living in a false freedom and unwilling to allow Jesus to illuminate light into your sin?

4. **Will Have the Light of Life:** We have the light of life that illuminates to the world where true life is gained. This light of life is meant to shine through our lives to the world.
 - a. His light shines through our lives
 - i. "You are the light of the world" -Matthew 5:14-16

5. **Jesus light of the World**

- a. V: 1-11
 - i. The religious pick up the stones to condemn those whom Jesus came to save.
 - ii. Is my heart focused on condemning or restoration?
 - iii. How do I see the sinner?
 - iv. You can't lead someone to restoration with a stone in your hand making judgments from the outside
 - v. Only side by side with them at the center can we lead toward restoration
 - vi. Jesus places himself at the center,
 - vii. The woman caught in the adultery was ready to be condemned by the religious instead Jesus invites her to a new a life.

Final Thought: Jesus' light was found offensive by the religious but it was found to be restorative to the sinner. When our light shines sometimes it will cause offence but it will also lead others to the fullness of life that God has for them.

"Everything our heart longs for is everything he is"