

When the Light Goes On

John 8:12-20

We find the light of truth in Jesus. In the midst of rejection and controversy, the message of this light can still lead people to put their faith in him. *In the midst of confusion and doubt, the light of truth can lead us to salvation and life.*

Setting

“Again” (12) indicates that Jesus spoke once more to the people in the temple at the Feast of Tabernacles. It continues the discussion from 7:52.

The event takes place near the Treasury in the Court of the Women in the temple courtyard (20).

The event occurs at the end of the Feast of Tabernacles (7:37).

The Feast of Tabernacles was also known as the Feast of Lights. In the Courtyard of the Women, four huge candelabra were lit, pushing light up into the night sky like a searchlight. It served as a reminder of the pillar of fire by which God guided Israel in the wilderness (Exodus 13:21-22). It was against the backdrop of that ceremony that Jesus made the stunning announcement that he is the true light of the world.

The light has dawned in our distress (12a)

“I am” is emphatic.

In his claim, Jesus is identifying with the Shekinah glory of God the Father. He was claiming to be God.

Jesus comes to us and shines in the dark wilderness of our wandering.

If we follow, the light will lead us to safety (12b)

In the desert, the Israelites kept their attention on the pillar of cloud and fire. They walked in its light.

The one who follows Jesus will not walk in the darkness of sin, the world, and Satan. They will have the light that produces spiritual life.

To follow Jesus means to give yourself totally to him; to believe on him. There is no room for half-hearted followers.

The result is light and life.

We must choose whether or not to follow the light (13-19)

Sadly, not all who heard Jesus' claim believed. Some rejected his words.

The Jewish leaders rejected Jesus' claim on a technicality (13). They weren't saying Jesus was wrong, only that he did not follow Old Testament Law of producing multiple witnesses.

In response to the Jews' argument, Jesus pointed to his heavenly origin (14), his intimate union with the Father, and the agreement of his testimony with the Father (16).

Light does not establish its claim through arguments, but simply by shining.

Jesus said we have enough witnesses to convince us to believe. We have his testimony and that of God the Father (17-18).

Not everyone is willing to believe (13, 19).

Do you have the light of life? Are you enjoying the peace, the joy, and the comfort that comes from the light of the world? If not, then submit to him now.

In the midst of confusion and doubt, the light of truth can lead us to salvation and life.