

SERMON OUTLINE

'Who do you say I am?'

The 'I Am' sayings in John's Gospel - 2

John 7 v37 - 44 & 8 v12

Context (see 7 v37) - the last Day of the Feast of Tabernacles. Note – on each of the first 7 out of the 8 nights of the feast, the four great candelabras in the temple were lit in a ceremony which was known as 'the illumination of the temple'. It was in the context of this lighting ceremony that Jesus said (8 v12) - "The am the light....."

Key Question - What was Jesus saying here - what was He meaning in taking to Himself this imagery of light?

1. SEEING THE LIGHT

Key Question - What was Jesus doing in saying that He was the light?

A. THERE IS WHO HE WAS CLAIMING TO BE

Context - This ceremony of the illumination of the temple directed the people to (and reminded them of) the wilderness wanderings of the Children of Israel when God went before them in (and protected them with) a pillar of fire. This pillar of fire was nothing less than the light of the glory of God. Whenever the candelabras were lit in the temple, it was in the hope that God would come to them again to shed abroad the light of His glory. When this didn't happen (and on the 8th and last night of the feast) the candelabras were not lit - and all was darkness. It was then that Jesus cried out - "I am the light....." This was a simply staggering claim because in the Bible God is repeatedly described as being - Light. See Ps 27 v1 - sung by the people whenever the candelabras were lit.

B. THERE IS WHAT HE WAS OFFERING TO ALL

Note that Jesus said - "I am the light of the world....." The implication being that the world is in darkness. But what sort of darkness?

(i) The darkness of ignorance

See Matt 6 v23

(ii) The darkness of sin

See Jn 3 v19

Key Point - Jesus came as the Light to enable us to see - to banish our ignorance. To see Jesus, is to see God. See Jn14 v9 & 1 v14. And Jesus came as the Light to enable us to live (we need light - the light of the sun, to live) - that is, to deal with the sin that results in darkness and death.

*'Light and life to all he brings
risen with healing in his wings.'*

Charles Wesley

Application - Can you see all this?

*'Open my eyes, illumine me,
Spirit divine!'*

Clara Scott

2. FOLLOWING THE LIGHT

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me....." It's not enough to believe (intellectually) - we need to follow. Here, following means - trusting.

What stops some people, having believed, from following? See Jn 3 v19 - 20.

3. POSSESSING THE LIGHT

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." And see Eph 5 v8 - 10

4. SHINING THE LIGHT

Key Question - How is this light to be seen today? See Matt 5 v14