

I AM the Light of the World

Sunday, November 9, 2014

John 8:12

I. Background/Setting

In the Old Testament

The Feast of Tabernacles is known by at least two names. The Hebrew word is "Sukkot" meaning "Tabernacles." But it is also known as the Feast of Booths or Huts. It acquired this name from the requirement for all Israelites to dwell in booths or temporary shelters during the 7 days of this autumn holiday. It was to be an annual reminder of God's provision and presence during the 40 year wilderness journey from Egypt to the land flowing with milk and honey. During that journey Israel lived in temporary shelters. During that journey God gave them water from the rock, manna from the heavens, and quail from the seas. During that journey God was before them in a pillar of fire at night and a pillar of cloud by day.

At the Time of Jesus

By the time of Jesus the Feast of Tabernacles still included the huts or booths but it also had evolved into a couple of different ceremonies. The first was the Ceremony of Water and the second ceremony was the ceremony of lights.

John 7:37 – Water Ceremony

John 8:12 – Light Ceremony

In the courtyard of the Temple stood 4 towering lamps; they were 75 feet high – that is twice as high as the high point of this ceiling. The lamps were so big that the reservoirs for oil held over 10 gallons each. This lamp lighting ceremony was repeated every night from the second night until the final night of the Feast of Tabernacles.

Fulfillment in Christ

The ceremony of lights cried out for Christ. It wasn't just "a look back" to the light of God's presence leading the Israelites out of Egypt and through the wilderness.

Later that same day – it is still the last and greatest day of the Feast of Tabernacles – Jesus healed a blind man. He brought light into that man's darkened life. As He did so, He said, "While I am in the world, I am the light of the world" (Jn 9:5). Again the Pharisees were angry with Jesus.

II. Jesus the Light Has Come

1) *Light has come into darkness.*

According to the Bible, the problem is absolutely within ourselves, and the solution is outside. The sin problem, the darkness problem, is in our hearts. The

solution has come to us by God's grace from outside ourselves. The light has come into the darkness.

Isaiah 9:2; 1 John 1:5

It is the human condition! Jesus is saying that apart from Him we are in spiritual darkness.

2) *Light condemns the darkness*

John 3:16-21

Jesus stands before us, exposing the darkness that makes us love sin and self more than God, and John says that the light condemns the darkness. We stand before God without excuse!

3) *Light conflicts with darkness*

1 John 1:6,7

We need to walk in the light because we cannot have it both ways: we cannot have eternal life by walking in darkness.

III. Jesus is Light and Life

Look at the statement of Jesus. He is the light of the world. Whoever follows him will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

"...follow..." – means to trust and obey Him.

As you follow or trust and obey you will not walk in darkness, but will also reach the land of life.

"To obey Jesus and follow the Light of the World means to become a living light and avoid delusions that lead to the detours toward darkness. It means to become the kind of people who can point others to the Savior so they too might experience "the light of life." W. Wiersbe

The same applies here: physical light – like the pillar in the desert and the light of this festival impart outward illumination. Jesus Christ the TRUE light imparts inward illumination.

Jesus is the light of life! Jesus the light is Himself the life!

The Conclusion