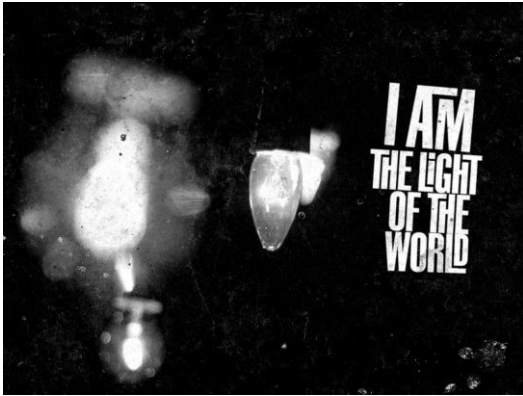


READING John 1:4,5,9, John 8:12



In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through Him, and nothing was created except through Him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it. God sent a man, John the Baptist, to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of His testimony. John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the

light. The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 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.”

TALK SUMMARY

The “I am” statements all describe a property of God for “I am” is Yahweh, the name of God. God fed the Israelites in the desert with manna, which Jesus emulated this with His earthly feeding of the 5000 before proclaiming that He was the bread of life which would last forever. In the same way, God led the Israelites in the desert with light which Jesus emulated through healing the blind, before proclaiming He was the light of the world, which would last forever.

This statement addressed two kinds of darkness, coming after the Festival of Tabernacles or Light when 4 large candelabra had been extinguished in the Temple, and the Pharisees had brought a woman caught in the darkness of sin. Jesus refused to condemn her and brought light to her life, whilst implying that He was the real Temple, whose light would never go out.

Light can bring relief to darkness which comes through illness, anxiety, loneliness, economic concerns, stress and worries on behalf of others. It can also bring discomfort, as Saul found on the road to Damascus, and as we find when it bring us pangs of conscience about our own weaknesses and wrongdoings. Jesus transformed Saul into Paul, who became a light to the Gentiles, and He can shine light into our dark night of the soul and make us lights for Him too.

Light has many properties. It can cut laser-like through objects, it can burn, it reflects, and it is fully experienced in colour. Living in the Light of the World can enable us to live our life in all its fulness. Jesus said if we follow Him we need no longer have to walk in that darkness. If you are lost in a dark place right now, move closer to Jesus, for the light is better there.

QUESTIONS

1. Are there dark places in my life which need light?
2. Into whose lives can I shine the light of Jesus?
3. Am I experiencing the full spectrum of God’s light?