

“I Am The Light Of The World”

“Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life” (John 8:12).

On one occasion, Jerry Bivens was talking to me about his Bible College days. During the long drive back to school one Sunday night after preaching in his home church in North Carolina, he went to sleep at the wheel. The car veered off the road and landed in a deep place far below the road, leaving him a bit disoriented in the dark of the night. The headlights of a passing car brought him light and direction in the darkness.

In this meditation, we come to the second “I Am” statement of Jesus in the Gospel of John: “I am the light of the world.” He did not come as “a” light; He did not come as “another” light; He did not come as a “passing” light in time. He came to the earth as “the” light, “the light of the world!” Through Him, and only through Him, there is light for our souls and direction for our lives.

While the Lord Jesus was teaching the people in the temple one morning, “the Scribes and Pharisees brought unto Him a woman taken in adultery” (8:3). Although their chief goal was to find a reason “to accuse Him” (8:6), the religionists were “convicted” in His presence and eventually “went out one by one” (8:9). After justifying the poor woman, Jesus made this wonderful declaration.

Jesus forthrightly exclaimed that He is the Light of the world! These words, “I am the light of the world,” were the very words of Jesus. Without hesitation, He declared Himself as the source of spiritual light. There is no trace of light in our fallen nature. And as portrayed by the actions of the Pharisees, the Law only flings us down before Christ in our guilt and wrong (see 8:1-11). Ah, but He Who is the Light dispels our darkness.

Jesus further explained that He is the Light of the world! “He that followeth Me,” Jesus taught, “shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.” The woman taken in adultery and every other soul blinded by spiritual darkness need not continue to stumble toward the eternal pit of darkness. As we follow Jesus, He not only removes the darkness but also brightens the path of life with His presence and grace.

Jesus fully exemplified that He is the Light of the world! In the next chapter, the Savior repeated this “I Am” statement. He said, “As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world” (9:5). Then in a very strange and definite way, He proceeded to open a blind man’s eyes (see 9:6-7). Jesus is not just the source of spiritual light—He dispenses light to those in darkness. Are you an example of His light-giving power?