

Jesus Christ: The Light

John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39

Introduction

This week, we're looking at Jesus as the **LIGHT OF THE WORLD**. He calls Himself this in **verse 5** of our **Gospel** text. *"As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."* We'll explore the **fact** that He is the Light, how this Light **impacts** our life and what it **means** for us when we're impacted by His Light.

He Is the Light: Its Properties

We have our first mention of light in **Genesis 1** (Read **Genesis 1:1-5**). Creation begins in darkness. What is darkness? Simply put, **darkness** is the *absence of light*. Before God created light, there was only darkness. The two cannot co-exist. Light **dispels** darkness. If there is more darkness than light, the light pierces through the darkness. As the light increases, the darkness decreases, until there is no more darkness. So, God had to divide the light and darkness, making **Day** and **Night**. This was necessary, because physical things need both to survive. Night is a time to wind down and rest.

Jesus Is Light

The creation account in **John** goes like this: (Read **John 1:1-5**). *Jesus is the light of men*, or the light of the world. Since Jesus is the light, the light has the properties or attributes of Jesus. That's how AUGUSTINE can say that *the Light lasts until the end of the age*. This light has **power**, too. So, what happens when this light shines on us?

The Impact of His Light Upon Us

Paul says, in **Ephesians 5:8**, *For at one time you were darkness*. There was no light in us at all. If Jesus is light, **sin** is **darkness**. Without Christ, our lives are pitch black. Have you ever experienced total darkness? I remember visiting ALCATRAZ penitentiary. On the tour we got to spend a couple minutes in solitary confinement. There was no light at all in that cell. Here're the effects of total darkness. Not only could you not see the toilet and the bed (the only pieces of furniture), it affected your **emotions** and sense of **timing**. Though the room was packed, I felt alone. Though we were only there for two minutes, the closest guess as to how long our incarceration lasted was fifteen. That's what it means to be spiritually blind, to live in total darkness.

When His Light Shines on Us

We now turn to our **Gospel** lesson to see what happens when the light of Christ encounters our dark lives (Read **John 9:5-7**). Jesus made **mud** with **dust** and **saliva**. While this may seem unsanitary (especially at this time) and crude, remember Whose saliva it was. Then, He sent the man to wash in the pool of **Siloam**, which means "sent." AMBROSE says that Jesus was acting as priest and working salvation through an act that symbolized **BAPTISM**. He didn't use water to make the mud, because He didn't want people to think the healing came from the earth, but from Him. And using clay reminds us that He is the One who made the first man out of clay, and by this clay He's fixing a broken part of creation. What happened when the man washed off the clay? He, who had been born blind could see.

Now What?

Salvation

When we apply this to our lives, we see Christ is the “SENT ONE”; He is SILOAM, the pool to go to for healing. Christ comes to us and washes us in **Baptism** to take away the blindness with which we were born. He heals us of our sin as He shines His light into our hearts, dispelling the darkness. But it doesn’t end there.

Witness

As we read through this story, we can see the progression of the man’s understanding of who Jesus is and his faith in Him. He goes from **unknowing** “*I washed, and I see*” to a **partial knowledge** “*He is a prophet*” to **belief** in Jesus as the **Messiah** “*Lord, I believe*”. The response of having the light of Christ shine in you is to **reflect** it to the world in **witness**. As Jesus says in **Matthew 5:14**, “*You are the light of the world.*” His light reflects through us to others. It also shines in the way we live, as Paul says in **Ephesians 5: 11**, *Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.*

Means of Grace

We receive this light at **Baptism**, as **AMBROSE** says, but we also receive it at the **Lord’s Table**. As we receive His body and blood, He **forgives** our darkness with His light and **strengthens** our faith, giving us the ability to **reflect** His light. The Light of Christ always makes a difference. Come to **JESUS CHRIST: THE LIGHT**.

*May the peace of God,
Which passes all understanding,
Keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*
