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I am the Light of the World #202.mp3

DATE November 15, 2019

DURATION 14m 6s

START OF TRANSCRIPT

[00:00:05] Jimmy Knott

Greetings again, my friend. Welcome to the podcast. Teaching that transforms with Pastor Jimmy Not thanks so much for joining me.

[00:00:16] Jimmy Knott

Today, I'm continuing that series, Gigantic Affirmations from Christ the I Am Sayings of Jesus. All seven of these sayings found solely in the Gospel of John, whose sole theme was to highlight the deity of Jesus. Each of these seven sayings give us tremendous insight into who Jesus is and why he came. His identity and his mission. Last time we looked at very first one of these out of John Chapter 6 3 times in John sixty-six says I am the bread of life.

[00:00:51] Jimmy Knott

He supplies.

[00:00:53] Jimmy Knott

He sustains and he satisfied. Just like bread. The backdrop of that, again, going as several of these I am saying, is due back to the wilderness wandering days of the Jewish people.

[00:01:03] Jimmy Knott

When they were freed from Egyptian bondage and making their way toward the promised land, they were hungry. And they complain to their leader, Moses, and Moses called him the father, and the father provided he provided quail for the evening meal and he provided what was called manna for the morning meal.

[00:01:23] Jimmy Knott

Were to gather the manna every day to have food in that manner. That manna was food, sustenance for the day, but only for the physical. That manna was provided by God, but only for the people of Israel. When Jesus and that backdrop said, I am the bread of life, they needed that in reference to a question about our fathers. I received manna from Moses in the wilderness and John Six, and Jesus said no. I provided that I'm the giver of the bread of life. So to the hungry, Jesus said, We looked at it last time and the bread of life. Today we look at the second gigantic affirmation of Christ when he says in John Chapter 8, Verse twelve I am the light of the world.

[00:02:11] Jimmy Knott

He who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

[00:02:18] Jimmy Knott

Few things are more important in our world than in light. If you don't believe that does go into a dark room without any light, any way to illuminate anything, and you'll get the point. When you go back all the way through the creation account of Genesis Chapter 1, isn't it interesting that the first thing that God created? Was light, that alone speaks to the value of light, only three terms in the Bible that are used to describe a central character and nature of God. God is spirit. And those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth. John 4:24. God is love. Anyone who does not love does not know God because God is love. First, John, for eight, God is light. This is the message we have heard from and proclaim to you that God is light and in him is no darkness at all. First, John, 1 5 again, all of these from a gospel writer, John. Someone put it this way. Light is the shadow of God. When we come to John Eight, there's an inseparable relationship going on really in John chapter six, seven and eight, and a lot of it is connected to Jewish history and the wilderness wanderings. Again, in chapter six, Jesus is presented as the bread of life, replacing the temporary manna.

[00:03:42] Jimmy Knott

And frankly, a John Seven, though he doesn't use the term. I am. He presents himself as the living water. Water was drawn from the rock by Moses under God's instructions. And we come to John Chapter 8. They're looking back on the pillar of the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night. The God use to guide the people of Israel and Jesus claimed to be the fulfillment of all of those types as well. And when we come to John A12, Jesus makes this great second affirmation. I am the light of the world again. Another picture of who Jesus is and what he came to do. And again, it creates continuing and increasing conflict between Jesus and religious leaders about who Jesus is and what he came to do. Let me give you a little bit of background of what's going on. The Feast of Tabernacles,

which is recorded earlier here, John in John, Chapter 7 really has just ended. It's an eight day feast. It's the last of seven feast in the Jewish annual calendar. And that feast looks back and commemorates and remembers the wanderings of the wilderness and God's faithfulness in providing for them and protecting them. And in guiding them through the wilderness and eventually into the promised land. They did not want to forget what God had done. And this feast lasted eight days. But on the first night of the feast, for seven straight nights just before dark, they would have an illumination of the temple ceremony.

[00:05:21] Jimmy Knott

To help you to understand how how spectacular of this was, if you could just kind of close your eyes and look at the old city of Jerusalem for then it was a it was a big city. And if you look at the landscape of this, the entire area of the city of Jerusalem, you would see what stands out almost like a sore thumb. This huge rectangle, which could be described as the Temple Mount.

[00:05:45] Jimmy Knott

It was ummum like a rectangle. The long sides were over 500 yards and the shorter sides over two hundred and fifty yards, some hundred and seventy thousand square yards.

[00:05:57] Jimmy Knott

It just stuck out. It would stick out. We do look at the landscape of this entire city.

[00:06:04] Jimmy Knott

That was the Temple Mount. Inside of the Temple Mount was was a structure that was 80 yards, 80 yards back 200 yards. That was the temple proper, the temple proper just inside the Temple Mount, up to the temple proper. That was the quarter there, gentiles where the gentiles were free to roam. But when you enter through the beautiful gate into the temple proper, you entered into the court of the women were offerings were taken, were the treasury was kept, were oils and wood were stored. Then if we kept moving, we would move inside another area, which was the court of the Israelite. The men. And inside of that was the court of the Preece, where they would offer sacrifices. And inside of that was the most sacred places of the holy place and the holy of holies.

[00:06:59] Jimmy Knott

What Jesus said, he said in John Chapter 8, these words, it says, Jesus spoke in the Treasurer as he taught in the temple. So Jesus is in the court of women, and it's a huge court.

[00:07:11] Jimmy Knott

Eighty by eighty yards. And it would hold fifteen hundred, maybe two thousand people. And what would happen just before dark for huge candelabras would be would be set up. You say how huge they were. Almost 70 yards high.

[00:07:31] Jimmy Knott

Can you imagine? And then a young, obviously young and physically able priest would take a one and a third gallons of oil, climb the ladder, fill the bow and light the candles for all of them some seventy yards high.

[00:07:46] Jimmy Knott

Darkness now has enveloped not just a temple, but not just a Temple Mount, but all of Jerusalem. And no matter where you are, you could see this magnificent light lighting up the sky.

[00:08:01] Jimmy Knott

Well, that ended and now it's the next day.

[00:08:04] Jimmy Knott

And in the midst of this same quarter, the women were the Treasury was Jesus proclaims, I am the light. Of the world. Not just the light that the father used the pillar by cloud by day and fire by night to guide you as a nation is run to the promised land.

[00:08:25] Jimmy Knott

I am the light of the whole world.

[00:08:31] Jimmy Knott

Can you imagine the connection that they were making based on this wonderful ceremony? Let's think for a minute. What's like do. What's the purpose of life? Well, basically, it's to dispel darkness. Life's purpose is to penetrate darkness and then to illuminate the way often in scripture there contrast and light and dark darkness are often contrasted in scripture because just think for a minute. Intellectually, in scripture, light refers to knowledge and the truth. Darkness refers to era and ignorance. Think about it morally. The contrast light speaks to purity and holiness. While darkness speaks to sand into evil. And Jesus makes that contrast here in John A-12.

[00:09:16] Jimmy Knott

When he talks, when he says I am the light of the world, he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

[00:09:24] Jimmy Knott

We live in a world that's in spiritual darkness. It is spiritually accurate and it is morally evil. If you don't believe that. Look, if you take a local paper, look at your local paper for two 3 days and just take note of the articles in the paper. Maybe from just a local perspective that make references to bad and evil and terrible things that have happened and then get on the Internet and look at what's going on in your state and nationally and internationally.

[00:09:52] Jimmy Knott

I'm telling you, we live in a world of darkness and it seems like it's getting darker and the light of the world. Jesus is so powerful. I mean, look at our own personal lives. When you and I. Accept Christ, a great change takes place in our life. Once we were in darkness and now we have the light of life and we can see our way through life as he wife lights up the way we no longer walk in darkness because we have in him the light of life. Why is Jesus call the light? I love what this writer said to the darkness of falsehood. He is the light of truth to the darkness of ignorance. The light of wisdom to the darkness of impurity. The light of holiness to the darkness of grief. The light of joy. To the darkness of death. The light of life. So what is our obligation to this life? What must we do to were related to this life? Jesus tells us, he said, I am the light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in darkness. But how the light of life. I think there are two things. One, where to follow him. There's probably no phrase that more defines what it means to be genuinely Christian and to live Christian really with our lives. It's a phrase follow me that Jesus used more than any other recorded phrase in the gospel records. It means to believe in him, to trust in him, and to seek to follow him with everything that we are and everything that we have. So our obligation to the light is first to receive the light and to follow the light.

[00:11:27] Jimmy Knott

And then next, it's the shine to shine as lights.

[00:11:32] Jimmy Knott

Jesus says in his passage, and he repeats over and over, I am leaving you. His earthly ministry was almost over. What was he going to do? What what happened to the light in the dark world? Well, that's where you and I come in as followers of Christ.

[00:11:51] Jimmy Knott

He left us to be reflectors to let himself shine through us. We have the light of his life in us, where to shine his lights and a world of darkness. He is the sort. We don't have to produce the light in that great. We just need to reflect it and let it shine through us.

[00:12:13] Jimmy Knott

He and he alone is the light of the world.

[00:12:18] Jimmy Knott

And just like in each one of these I am saying's especially those sayings that are related were given to the public audience, which is most of the first most of the seven. How was the response? Well, as always, with true what about Jesus? Some received or believed it, some rejected and refused to believe.

[00:12:39] Jimmy Knott

I hope, my friend, that you have embraced the light and that you're doing your best, laid his light shine through you and whatever part of a dark world that God has entrusted to you.

[00:12:51] Jimmy Knott

He came to light up this dark world. He is the light of the world. Let me close with a little bit of a warning of a great danger. You can be in the presence of the light. They were. And yet many still walk in darkness, as did most of those Jewish people and the religious leaders. John recorded in first John 1:06. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in darkness, we lie and we do not live by the truth. Be sure, my friend, that you're not just in the presence of the light, but you have believed on the person and you have invited him to be the light of your life. If you have, then Shadwell. Well, my friend. The question is not, is Jesus Christ the light of the world? He is. The question is. How brightly are you shining? Thank you. Thank you for listening to Truth the Transforms.

[00:13:51] Jimmy Knott

Remember, it only transforms us when we applied. Blessings from Pastor Jimmy. I'll see you.

END OF TRANSCRIPT



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