



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Light of the World

John 8:12

1. We are concluding our sermon series, *Following Jesus*, by looking intently at John 8:12.

John 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

Take a moment to discuss this fascinating verse. What does it mean? How does it speak to you? What does John 8:12 teach us about following Jesus?

2. The context of John 8:12 is important. Jesus is in Jerusalem and it's the beginning of the Festival of the Tabernacle. This festival begins by lighting up the temple. Four large lamp posts are lit in the temple, and people all over Jerusalem light candles in their windows. The beginning of the festival is said to light up the entire city. This would have been a significant sight long before the invention of electricity. Jesus takes this moment to draw attention to Himself and His mission.

John 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world...”

The statement, “I am the light of the world,” is multilayered. Jesus is basically saying “I am the only one who can bring illumination and salvation. I illuminate life so people can truly see, and I am the only way to salvation.”

If you are following Jesus, what are some of the ways He has brought light into your life? What things do you now understand that you didn't understand before you knew Christ, or before you grew to know Him as you do now?

3. Let's look at another phrase in John 8:12.

John 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

Let's examine the middle section. **"Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness."**

This section speaks directly to those who are following Jesus. It says they will never walk in darkness.

The biblical theme of darkness has three general applications:

- The first is a lack of understanding or ignorance (John 12:35).
- Darkness is also used as a metaphor for sin (John 3:19-20).
- Darkness also can apply to discouragement or feeling defeated (Micah 7:8).

Pause and reflect on this. Tell the story of a time when you personally faced a dark season in your life.

4. Again, the middle section says, **"Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness."**

Central to our understanding is the word "walk". In this verse, to walk means to live or to dwell in. It means we may have moments or seasons where we don't understand circumstances in our lives. We may make mistakes and sin. We might also face discouragement for a time. However, if we are following Jesus, it will not last forever. We have the power of Christ in us to overcome the darkness.

How do you think those who follow Jesus can partner with Him to overcome the darkness that attempts to affect their lives?

5. As we focused on John 8:12, you may have thought about **Matthew 5:14 You are the light of the world.**

Not only is Jesus the light of the world, but those who follow Him are also to be the light of the world.

How do you think Jesus' followers are able to be the light of the world?

Where and how are you currently focused on being the light of the world?