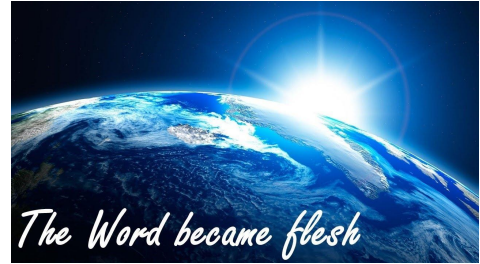


## **The Sermon - In 10 Sentences or Less**

### The Word Became Flesh (Week 2) - God's Light Has Come:



1) All human beings are seekers, born philosophers, yearning to find "large scale meaning," and not settle for "small scale meaning" (phrases used by sociologist David Kelley).

2) John's gospel is telling us the story of Jesus' coming in a way that addresses these deepest questions that we all ask: for example, last week we talked about Jesus as God's Word answering both what God is doing in the world, and what He is saying, and has always been trying to say, to us.

3) Whereas last weekend we listened to John 1.1-3 like those first Jewish recipients would have, this Sunday we changed out our ears and eyes, and tried to hear 1.1-4, 9, and 14 like its Greco-Roman audience.

4) "Word" (logos) and "light" were parallel terms in Greco-Roman philosophy, used to mean the playbook for life and purpose in the world that, if sought, can provide stability and meaning in a chaotic world; these were no less than the very mind of God.

5) Understanding that cultural setting makes the claim of John 1.9, 14 all the more staggering: that eternal mind of God, manual for life., and sole sure foundation in a world fraught with change came in human flesh, and His light is now available to all.

6) So John is saying that when we search for lasting purpose, stability, and truth, we're really looking for Jesus; when we seek to answer those deepest human questions, we're really reaching out for Him.

7) Likewise, the closer we draw to Christ, the more we'll find the security and guidance we seek.

8) If Jesus is the light, then the spiritual life is one of movement and proximity: you can imagine Christ as a campfire in the middle of a field on a dark night...the closer you are to the fire, the clearer you see, and the warmer you get...the farther from the light you are, the less things make sense, the more you stumble and fall, and the colder life can feel.

9) Jesus Himself ties it all together at the end of His public ministry in John's gospel: "While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light" (John 12.36).

## **Quote to Remember**

The late Pope John Paul II at World Youth Day (2005):

"It is Jesus that you seek when you dream of happiness; He is waiting for you when nothing else you find satisfies you; He is the beauty to which you are so attracted; it is He who provoked you with that thirst for fullness that will not let you settle for compromise; it is He who urges you to shed the masks of a false life; it is He who reads in your heart your most genuine choices, the choices that others try to stifle.

"It is Jesus who stirs in you the desire to do something great with your lives, the will to follow an ideal, the refusal to allow yourselves to be ground down by mediocrity, the courage to commit yourselves humbly and patiently to improving yourselves and society, making the world more human and more fraternal."

## **Explore More**

More in John's gospel on Jesus being God's light:

Here are three short passages in John that revisit the theme of Jesus as God's light...you could read one every other day this week as a way of staying mindful of Jesus our light:

John 8.12-20: [John 8.12-20 NRSV](#)

John 12.27-36: [John 12.27-36 NRSV](#)

John 12.44-50: [John 12.44-50 NRSV](#)

A short devotional that connects Christmas and Jesus who is God's light:

[Why is Jesus referred to as the "Light of the World" and how does that relate to Christmas?](#)

## **A Little Christmas Music for Today**

Here's a Christmas song about Jesus the Light, by Third Day:

[Third Day - Jesus Light of the World](#)