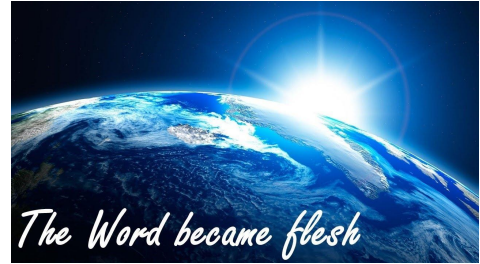


The Sermon - In 10 Sentences or Less

The Word Became Flesh (Week 3) - The Darkness Did Not Overcome the Light:



- 1) We come in our journey through the prologue of John's gospel to John 1.5: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."
- 2) Note that this struggle between light and darkness precedes Jesus' arrival on the scene (1.9), so in effect He was born into this fight (see here Rev. 12.1-6 too).
- 3) The present tense of the verb "shines" is peculiar too: though this conflict between light and dark stems back to creation itself, it continues to the present day as well.
- 4) So you and I, just like Jesus Himself, will spend every day of our lives in war zone, the tug of war between light and the darkness trying to topple it.
- 5) The pairing of light and dark are archetypes: they are part of a universal human language, shared by cultures separated by time and distance, something that we really don't need to teach each, symbols that resonate deep in our bones.
- 6) John 3.19-20 tells us why the darkness opposes the light so stridently: darkness fears the light, because the light exposes.
- 7) All human beings have things they hide, half-truths and lies they want to be true but they know are not, or ugly, broken matters of the heart, for example - and only when we bring them to God and His light will their power over us be thwarted, with healing to follow.
- 8) John 8.12 and 12.35, 46 carry the theme of light and darkness forward: in both instances, Jesus asks us to make a choice, follow His light and find life, or be overcome by the darkness.
- 9) This ongoing battle between light and darkness is not an even fray: just as light has not succumbed to the darkness in the past, nor will it in the present, nor will it in the future, and in fact some final day light will prevail.
- 10) As poet Mark Strand puts it, it's never too late to come to the light, which is to come to God's love: whoever you are, and wherever you might be in your relationship with Jesus, you can choose to take one step toward the light.

More to Explore

1) St. Paul speaks about darkness and light in the same way that John does - if you like, check it in your personal devotional time this week:

- Ephesians 5.12-14: [Eph 5.12-14 NRSV](#)
- Colossians 1.11-14: [Col 1.11-14 NRSV](#)
- Romans 13.11-14: [Romans 13.11-14 NRSV](#)
- 2 Corinthians 4.6: [2 Corinthians 4.6 NRSV](#)

2) Here's a short devotional entry that connects all the uses of "light" in the gospels: [What it means to be the light of the world](#)

3) Here's a thoughtful piece connecting the light of Jesus at Christmas to the short days in winter, tapping into the writings of Thomas Moore to do it: [That light in the darkness? It's Christmas](#)

A Prayer for this Week

For Advent – Rev. Bruce Prewer (The Uniting Church of Australia):

Lord Jesus, You are the future towards which the Spirit draws us, the salvation offered to all humanity, the joy exceeding all excitements and pleasures, and the destiny which was prepared for us before the foundation of the world.

You come as humble perfection outside our grasp yet graciously within our reach. You are the beauty of the greatest miracle of all – the miracle of love.

You who are our Savior, Friend, and Lord, we welcome You this Advent season, amen.