

# I am the Light of the World

John 8:1-12

I AM Series

Well today we are in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of this 7 part series – looking at the **I AM statements of Jesus.**

A)SEVEN incredible statements that Jesus made about HIMSELF –that address the Deepest longings in the Human heart.

B)Today Statement # 2 **I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.**

C)Three Basics functions for Light.

**#1 Light exposes things.**

A)Ever got dressed in the dark? - Step out into the light – nothing matches.

WOW! – Disaster.

B)Light has a way of exposing flaws – things are brought into the light and you see them for what they are.

C)One of the problems I have with **high end Restaurants** – Lights are always dim. – “Ambience”

1)But I always wonder What are they TRYING TO HIDE- Lights are so low can’t see what eating –

D)**X Ray – Shines a light** – see what is going on in your body – Where there is a PROBLEM!

1)So Light exposes things

**#2 Light Illuminates things.**

A)Walk into a dark room – turn on the light – so you can see where you are going. {Not tripping over things {Home late - before cell phone lights

B)**Kids toys – Skateboard** - You can get killed –

1)Car headlights – Drive at night – see where you are going -- Fog – Scary.

C)**Diamond or precious Gem?** -on Black Velvet – shine a light – Illuminates the brilliance

**So Light exposes – Light illuminates – #3 Light Energizes things.**

A) Most plants contain a special colored chemical or **pigment** called **chlorophyll** that is used in photosynthesis.

B)Chlorophyll is what absorbs the sun's energy and turns it into chemical energy.

1)The **Rage today is Solar powered Electricity**

C)Sunlight provides Vitamin D in Humans

**In the passage before us – We see a great example of how Jesus the light of the World – Does these three things. Exposes, Illuminates and Energizes**

**Set the scene and background**

A)This scene takes place during the annual Feast of Tabernacles –

B)8 Day celebration - Commemorate 40 years

1)Family Camping – TENTS

C) Ritual each night – Light giant Menorahs – golden Candelabras -

1)Symbolized – Pillar of Fire - Shekinah glory in Tabernacle

D) Jesus is in the temple court yard – COURT of the women.

1)Rabbi’s would go each day – set up their booth – do some teaching for whoever gathered.

**Imagine having to compete with Jesus- V.1 of our text – Jesus shows up – all the people came to Him!**

A)He has a big following.

B)As Jesus is teaching – the Religious leaders show up dragging a woman.

C)They throw her down at the very feet of Jesus – declaring – **she was caught in the very act of adultery**

1)In my mind I picture her covered only in the bed sheet from the bed she was sinning in.

**Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?”**

A)They were seeking to test him – sort of a catch 22 situation.

B)Now They were right – the Law of Moses did deem adultery as a capital Crime

1) Those caught were to be stoned to death. Dueteronomy 22

C)According to the **Jewish Mishnah** the adulterers were placed knee deep in a box of manure.

1)Perhaps this was the origin of the **expression "knee deep in trouble"**.

D)After being placed in the box of manure the culprits were pelted with stones

1)until their faces slumped into the slime.

E)After the **execution trees were planted in the box of manure** to stand in the city as a testimony to the seriousness of adultery.

1)SO, a town with a lot of trees Boxes - would be considered a **"shady place"...** in more ways than one!

**So what they were saying was true according to the law of Moses and the tradition of the Mishnah.**

A)Trying to put Jesus at odds with the Law of Moses

B)But this was the Dilemma – If Jesus said stone her

**Bb)The Religious leaders would run to the Romans and declare there is a Rabbi down in the temple taking CAPITAL PUNISHMENT into his own hands**

C)See the Romans had taken away **the power** of the Jewish people to invoke their own Capital punishment laws.

D)SO If Jesus said: Forgive her – he could potentially have the people turn on him for – **not CARING ABOUT THE LAW OF MOSES!**

E)WHAT would Jesus do! – How would- Jesus the light of the World – Handle this?

**#1 Jesus Exposes the hypocrisy of the religious leaders.**

A)Jesus knew this was a set up – for one reason – if She was really caught in the **"Very Act of Adultery"** – WHERE WAS THE DUDE.

B)You can't commit adultery by yourself! – It takes two to TANGO

C)And The law of Moses made it clear both parties involved were TO BE BROUGHT FORTH.

**D)Some Bible commentators suggest that it was one of their religious friends –**

1)How else did the Pharisees know exactly where to go to find a her?

**It is possible they were very familiar with this woman and her tendency toward being promiscuous**

A)A woman who maybe had a thing for men in clerical robes

**B)Although guilty, this woman was the victim of a Pharisical sting.**

C)She had become a pawn in a bigger game - **the bait to catch a bigger fish.**

**Notice what Jesus the light the World does – V6 Jesus stoops down starts writing in the dirt as though he didn't hear them.- Jesus is So Cool**

A)Writing in the dirt – WHAT WAS HE DOING? BUYING TIME? – **NO I don't think so.**

B)That is what I would be doing – Buying time – doodle in the dirt - Lord Help.....

1)**I Don't think that quick on my feet!**

C)I always have some great comebacks **about 3 days later – 3 days after the fact –**

1)Wish I would have said this!

**Jesus is writing in the Dirt – they kept asking!**

A)Then Jesus rises up and says to them- Ok – Yes Stone her – that is what the law says

B)He who is without sin can throw the first stone.

**C)Now this was also a part of the Mishnah teaching – the person who brought the accusation would be required to throw the first STONE.**

D)That was a deterrent to FALSE TESTIMONY  
1)Accuser would have to start the process – hear the first thud.

E)Understand when he says – **"Without sin"** – he is not suggesting – He who is SINLESS – or Perfect.

The idea is more – whoever is here who has a clear CONSCIENCE.

A) JESUS KNOWS where they are at. – Knows what is going on in their hearts

B) Jesus stands up to these Pharisees and rolls the ball back into their court.

1) He doesn't say the Law is wrong – nor does He deny the validity of the woman's sentence –

C) He just questions the qualifications of the men who want to carry it out.

Then Jesus stooped down again and began to once again write in the dirt.

A) And we are not sure what HE WROTE – caused a lot of Speculation - SANCTIFIED SPECULATION

B) Because as he writes they begin to leave – they don't leave as a Mob or a group

C) They begin to leave – one by one – starting with the oldest and moving to the youngest.

D) Something has to produce that- what happened  
What was He writing?

Although We're not told what Jesus wrote, but there's a clue imbedded in the original text.

A) The Greek word usually translated "wrote" is "grapho", from which we get our word "graphic".

B) But John adds a prefix to the word He uses here - the prefix "kata"

1) which means "against or in opposition to" - "katagrapho" means "to write against".

C) Whatever Jesus wrote, they were not flattering words.

D) Many Bible Scholars believe that Jesus wrote each man's name and under it – HIS OWN SIN

1) Maybe even their sins that were the same or similar to the woman – Dates and times.

E) The Reaction was Powerful – One by one they left from the oldest to the youngest!

These RELIGIOUS Leaders didn't realize that there are two types of sinners in this Temple this day...

A) There's a sinner sulking in the dirt, and there're sinners seething with rage.

B) There's a sinner who's been caught in the very act,

C) and there are sinners who have hidden their sin behind clerical collars and priestly robes –

1) and religious rituals and church affiliations.

D) The Pharisees don't realize that both the unrighteous and the self-righteous are equally guilty before the eyes of holy God.

So Jesus the Light of the World exposed the Hypocrisy of the Religious leaders

A) THAT is what the Light of Jesus does – It exposes the Hypocrisy in our hearts!

B) Attitudes that are wrong - Pride – Rebellion

C) Like an XRAY machine – Jesus doesn't shine his light into our hearts – to make us feel bad.

D) He shines his light in our hearts to show us what He wants to Change!

E) Jesus is the Great Physician – Exposes the sin in our hearts –

1) So he can MAKE US RIGHT & NEW

<sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

Jesus the Light of the World – Exposes Hearts – Junk – Hypocrisy.

A) Sermon on the Mount – Attitudes not Actions

B) Murder and Adultery.

# 2 Jesus the Light of the World – Illuminates God's heart!

A) Once the men are gone – Jesus says to the woman – Where are your accusers?

B) She answers – They are gone Lord – then Jesus says – neither do I condemn you

C) See Jesus didn't come to condemn man!

<sup>17</sup> For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

<sup>18</sup> "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. – John 3:17-19

D) Mankind is condemned already: We all have a Scarlet letter of some sin – plastered above our lives

Interesting Point – there was only **one person** in the temple with the right to accuse this woman.

A) Only one sinless person was there that day. And that was Jesus... He choose not to CONDEMN

B) NEITHER DO I CONDEMN YOU!

Have you ever had this thought – God is so holy, and pure, and perfect; yet why in the world does He put up with people like you and me?"

A) And there's only one answer to that question... it's not logical, or rational, or even comprehensible,

B) but the reason God doesn't annihilate us - and is willing to work with us - is that He loves us.

1) Yes, *He really loves us!*

C) And because He loves us, this pristine, spotless, **absolutely PERFECT God**, is willing to do whatever it takes to clean us up and make us His children.

D) Whatever Jesus wrote with His finger in the dirt that day,

1) He showed that God was willing to get down **in the dirt for us.**

E) He stooped down to where the woman was –

1) He did that when He left heaven – came to earth – to enter into our world

We don't know what led this woman to pursue this kind of lifestyle.

A) But I can tell you this – No little girl grows up dreaming of being an ADULTRESS.

B) Girls don't write in their yearbooks – I want to grow up and win the affections of a married man.

C) Usually the result of something that happened in her past – some hurt –

1) Leads to some form of Deception – Woman finds her worth in the arms of a MAN!

D) Women trade sex in order to FEEL LOVED

1) MEN express love IN ORDER TO GET SEX!

The Pharisees had condemned this woman to death. A) Their way of dealing with what's ugly and useless was to destroy it.

B) The Jewish remedy for sin was a stone, but Jesus' remedy was a piece of wood, a cross!

C) He could tell her He didn't Condemn Her – because He Knew He was to be condemned for her

Here Jesus illuminates the Heart of God in dealing with one of the **Biggest longings in the heart of Men**

A) How do I get rid of these feelings of Guilt?

B) Guilt plagues mankind – You feel guilty because you are Guilty – Sinned..... short.....

C) Head of a Psyche ward – huge mental hospital – I could release half of patients ... if rid them of their guilt!

D) We are all condemned – all guilty – before a Holy God!

1) Jesus didn't come to CONDEMN US

E) RUB OUR GUILT IN OUR FACE!

1) HE came to set us FREE!

Salvation happens when we realize what we are that we are sinners, We come and throw ourselves down at the feet of Jesus.

A) Understanding – He paid the price – He took our punishment – in return He offers Life. Free from Guilt

B) God promised you a priceless gift, there's nothing you can do to earn it, but you must come to Jesus to receive that gift.

1) And we're going to give you that opportunity this morning...

C) Notice v.10 10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, **Gune** – what Jesus called his mom – term of affection and endearment.

D) His heart today – HE LOVES YOU

So He said - **Woman where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?"**

A) Verse 11 records the woman's simple, joyous reply, "**No one, Lord.**" –

**NEITHER DO I, GO AND SIN NO MORE**

With those words we see #3 The third thing that Jesus the Light of the World DOES

A) #3 JESUS energizes this woman- **Neither do I condemn you – go and sin no more!**

B) Jesus gives this sinful woman and every other sinful man or woman like her, **an opportunity to start over.**

C) **Go and sin no more!!** – You don't have to live like that anymore.

**I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."**

A) Note the Power in this Promise – He who follows **me shall not** – or will not walk in Darkness.

B) Following Jesus – walking with Jesus results in Power!

1) Don't fight DARKNESS – TURN ON THE LIGHT

<sup>5</sup> This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup> If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 1 John 1:5,6

C) **There is no Darkness in Jesus – Follow Him – you naturally step out of darkness and into the Light**

1) It is the end Result – He changes you – Darkness starts to be less appealing

**<sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 1 John 1:7**

A) Not Perfect – Still living in a Dark world – but when we Sin – Jesus' blood Cleanses.

B) Don't need to get saved again

C) Confess – COME CLEAN – Forgiven

D) Follow – Jesus – step out of the Darkness into the Light.

**One last thought: Jesus declared I am the light of the World! Matthew 5:14-16**

"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. <sup>16</sup> Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." – Matthew 5:14-16

**Jesus the Light of the World is living in us**

A) Wants to shine from us – HIS HEART

B) We are surrounded by people – lost in Darkness – Deceived by sin

C) We have to be so careful – we as the Church don't resemble the Religious leaders with our stones.

**That Happens: Hate at abortion clinics –**

A) Jesus' heart breaks for those Babies – but also for the girl and guy who are deceived into thinking – THIS IS THE RIGHT CHOICE.

B) APPLAUD PRC – BIRTH CHOICE

C) The critical attitude the Church so often has against Homosexuals

1) People who are Deceived into thinking that same sex attraction is their lot in life.

**Jesus' heart breaks for them – NOT TRUE.**

A) All of us have natural tendencies that go against God's plan

B) Jesus wants to energize us – hearts yielded to him.