

The Two Lights

John 1:6-9

Introduction: It's incredible to think that God desires a relationship with us! That's why Simon and Garfunkel wrote a song, "The Sound of Silence" in the 70's. It states this: "Hello darkness, my old friend, I've come to talk to you again..." This is the description of the way many people feel today - they are living in personal and spiritual darkness. They are in need of spiritual illumination; a divine light.

Helen Keller tells of that dramatic moment when Anne Sullivan first broke through her dark, silent world with the illumination of language: "We walked down the path to the well house, attracted by the fragrance of the honeysuckle with which it was covered. Someone was drawing water and my teacher placed my hand under the spout. As the cool stream gushed over one hand she spelled into the other the word water, first slowly, then rapidly. I stood still, my whole attention fixed upon the motion of her fingers. Suddenly I felt a misty consciousness as of something forgotten - a thrill of returning thought; and somehow the mystery of language was revealed to me. I knew then that "w-a-t-e-r" meant that wonderful cool something that was flowing over my hand. That living word awakened my soul, gave it light, hope, joy, set it free!"

The moment Helen Keller describes is that moment her world of darkness was shattered with the light of language. Although she was the same person physically, her life was transformed. She now had a way she could see and understand.

In the brief message today we are going to see that there are two kinds of lights. While I don't have time to break this completely down, let me give you two thoughts this Christmas season.

I. **Light #1 are those who already believe: Our Light is to Shine, v. 6-8**

6 There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

A. John wasn't "THE" light, John was "A" light

B. He was the messenger of God (He wants us to be His messenger)

a. Matthew says, "Let your light so shine..."

b. **Illustration:** No big secret to my wife that I not a big fan of Christmas gifts

i. You know what the truly amazing gifts are to me?

1. The child from KZ who is so excited about giving he asks his mom if he can do chores to make money to give to someone in need
2. The person who goes out of their way to buy and pack food for the needy in our community
3. The college kid from CP who says to his mom that I don't really need anything this Christmas, can we give a gift to someone else who has a need this Christmas.
4. The person who serves in a women's shelter or homeless shelter
5. A person who volunteers in the local church loving on students, children, making videos, leading a small group

- ii. These are the gifts that count, that shine the light of Jesus!
- iii. Telling others is important...through actions and words.

II. Light # 2: Jesus is the True Light, v. 9

9 The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world

A. This is the Light that John the Baptist was proclaiming

- a. This was Emmanuel "God with us."
- b. This was the baby these children sang about
 - i. Born in stable
 - ii. Laid in a manger

B. When I think about God coming for me in this fashion, I'm stunned!

- a. He came to turn our darkness into light

Conclusion: This baby named Jesus is the Light that invaded the world and divides the human race

- You have a choice to choose either darkness or light...
- What will your decision be this Christmas?

I hope it's to first "KNOW" the Light and then I hope it's to "BE" the light!

Merry Christmas!