

To Bring Light John 12:44-50

This month we have been looking at things Jesus said when he was here on earth about why he came and this morning I want to spend just a few minutes talking about one of those things that ties in with the theme of the Christmas program we just saw. During the last few days before he died on the cross, Jesus was teaching in Jerusalem and he said in John 12:46: *“I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.”* So Jesus came as light, and I want us to look at what he meant when he said that.

You get a good idea by looking at what he said before and after that statement. Before it, he said in John 12:44-45: *“Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. ⁴⁵ And whoever sees me sees him who sent me.”* So he’s pointing out that he was not operating by himself here on earth. There was someone else sending him and Jesus was in such close connection with him that to believe in Jesus was to believe in the one who sent him and to see Jesus was to see the one who sent him.

After saying that he went on to make the statement: *“I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.”* So he’s saying that whoever sent him was sending him as light, because we as humans were already in some kind of darkness when he came. He was sent as light to bring whoever believes in him out of the darkness.

That darkness and light is described more clearly in what he says next. John 12:47-50 says *“If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. ⁴⁸ The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. ⁴⁹ For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. ⁵⁰ And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.”*

So he goes back to talking about the one who sent him and here we see that is God the Father. And he makes it very clear that when the Father sent him he commanded him to speak and say things, but only the things he gave him to speak and say. Jesus did not speak on his own authority, but only what the Father told him. Therefore his words were the very words of God. And because of that, he says that the words he spoke would judge those who rejected him because they were rejecting the very Word of God.

What he's doing is that he's linking the idea of him coming as light to him speaking the very words of God. By speaking the words of God he was bringing light into the world. His words were light from the Father. His words were truth, and as he spoke, he was bringing light and truth into the world. And anyone who believed in him would not remain in the darkness.

So then, what is the darkness? The darkness is everything that people believe that does not come from the Father. It includes all false teaching, false religions, distortions of the truth, lies, deception, manmade philosophies and theories. It includes ignorance and lack of knowledge and all confusion and misunderstanding. These things are like a thick fog and permeate the world with darkness including the hearts and minds of all mankind. They come from the corruption that's in us because of sin and they come from the father of lies and deception, who is Satan himself. So the darkness is both in us and being fed to us and the whole earth is bathed in it and has been ever since the first lie was told in the Garden of Eden.

The people Jesus was speaking to were dwelling in that darkness, but when he came, speaking truth from the Father, he told them: *"I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness."* Jesus brought light into the world. He was revealing truth in the darkness so that anyone who believed in him and followed him would know the truth and come out of the darkness and be saved.

Have you come to believe in Jesus and follow him? Or are you still in bondage to the darkness?

When Jesus came to reveal truth he taught about the problem of our sin and the need for repentance. Because of our sins we have brought condemnation

upon ourselves. But he also taught about God's love and mercy and that he provided a way for us to be saved through faith in Jesus. Here's what he said in John 3:16-18: *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God."*

Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins and anyone who believes in him will not perish. Their sins will be forgiven and they will not be condemned. They will be saved and receive eternal life.

That is truth. That is light. Have you come into the light?

Many of you have and you rejoice that Jesus has come as the light of the world. And if you have not, I invite you to come today. Step out of the darkness. Put your faith in Jesus, and come into the light.