

Bobby forgot his part in the Sunday School program. Since parents always try to help, and Bobby’s mom was in the front row she did. She silently formed the words with her lips, but Bobby couldn’t figure out what she was mouthing. His memory had gone blank. Finally, she leaned forward and whispered loud enough for him hear: *“I am the light of the world.”*

Bobby heard his mom, a smile came over his face and in a loud clear voice he said: *“My mom is the light of the world!”*

Actually, Jesus told us that HE’S the Light of the World in John 8. What does he mean by that? What’s he telling us about himself?

Our lesson is 1 of those 7 famous “I AM” statements Jesus spoke to identify himself. He did that to help us better understand who he is and what he means to us. Can you recall the other 6 “I AM” statements? I AM ... the Bread of Life / the Door / the Good Shepherd / the Resurrection and the Life / the Vine / the Way and the Truth and the Life. Did you get them all?

In an earlier reading, the Promise of Light Fulfilled one, John describes the Word, who is Jesus. I’d like to reread those first few verses: **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”**

In that staggering and maybe even confusing statement from John, we learn a number of things about Jesus, the Word:

- He has always been in existence with God,
- He is God,
- everything in the universe owes its beginning to him,
- and, he was and is and will always be the LIGHT.

And that ties in perfectly with today, where Jesus describes himself as THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD! What that mean for you and me we’ll figure out by touching of these 3 truths about **Jesus, the Light of the World Brings: Revelation, Redemption and Rejection.**

1: Revelation The Pharisees thought they knew the Father pretty well. They had memorized their Old Testaments and knew it backward and forward. But Jesus explains he came to reveal the Father they thought they knew, but really didn’t. Jesus was quite clear: **“If you knew me, you would know my Father, also.”** And since they didn’t want to know Jesus, they couldn’t know the Father, either. Since no one has ever seen God the Father, God the Son, Jesus, has to reveal him.

Not everyone overlooked Jesus. Some wanted to believe him. Some were even willing to say, *“I think Jesus might be the Messiah.”*

But, there were plenty who said: *“He can’t possibly be the Messiah. He’s from Galilee. Everyone knows that the Christ is descended from David, and David came from Bethlehem, not Galilee.”*

Where we come from is important too. Some of us are proud of it. Others are haunted by the pain of the past. Where we came from plays a role in how we view ourselves and our purpose.

What’s so powerful about Jesus’ testimony being the Light of the World is: He knew exactly where he came from the right hand of his Father. He knew exactly his purpose to reveal the Father and carry out the Father’s rescue plan of salvation. He knew exactly where he was going a return trip to the Father’s right hand after a successful rescue mission.

The reason the Son needed to reveal the Father, is so that we see him in a completely different light. Yes, he’s the wise and powerful Creator of the universe. Yes, he’s the stern and holy Judge who has to punish sin. But Jesus reveals him as a loving Father who sent his Son to forgive our sins and

forget them so that he can now welcome us as his own children by faith. ***Jesus, the Light of the World, brings Revelation.***

2: Redemption ***Jesus, the Light of the World also brings Redemption.*** Many people thought they were living and doing things right. That is until the Light came along and exposed their dark mistake. Jesus told them only he had life that would last, that could last. Their mistake made things not right with them and God.

John the Baptist had reminded them earlier that they couldn't depend on their relationship to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob or Moses. The life they were living and the eternal life they were hoping to live didn't depend on bloodline bragging rights. The faith of their fathers and their families wasn't going to save them.

We can talk about the religious activities we've done. We can brag about our fathers and mothers, and how long our families have been in this church or attended that church. Here's the bottom line: *"Do YOU believe Jesus Christ is YOUR Redeemer?"*

With our hectic pace and schedules and our concern over paychecks and jobs and events we forget the bottom line. In the middle of everything, we need to stop, whether it's in public worship, or the privacy of our own home and ask: *"Do I believe that Jesus Christ is MY Redeemer?"*

Only Jesus could redeem us from our sins. Sins, the very thing that separated the religious leaders of Jesus' day from his Father, is the same thing that could separate us from him too, if not confessed.

There's a list of sins in the Bible that consistently pin points our deepest darkness of sin and unbelief,

- whether it's with words – our lies and gossiping;
- or it's with actions – our stealing and unfaithfulness;
- or it's with thoughts – our jealousy and hatred.

The mirror of God's Law condemns us

God doesn't fool around. He hates the darkness of sin. Which is why he sent his Son into the darkness

of sin! Only light can eliminate darkness! ***Jesus, the Light of the World brings Redemption.***

3: Rejection Be aware of this: ***Jesus, the Light of the World brings Rejection.*** Jesus was rejected. John's exact words: ***"He (Jesus) came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him."***

If there was anyone in the world who should have known Jesus it would have been those who knew their OT people, places and prophecies. But even though the Light of the World was standing right in front of them, they were still in the dark. In their eyes Jesus wasn't the one, so they rejected him.

- You profess the Light of the World, as your Redeemer.
- You walk in his light, and let your light shine.
- You invite family and friends who don't know Jesus well, or at all, to hear his good news message.

What this means is that you have the same privilege as your Lord ... to face rejection. It might not be as blatant, or as violent as Jesus, but the peer pressure, the looks and the comments are there. Consider it an honor to be rejected as you serve your Savior as a reflector of his light on your daily walk as a Christian.

Darkness makes us nervous and uncertain. We're not sure what dangers lurk outside our homes, or inside our bedrooms. Darkness can be painful ... stubbing your toe, running into a door. Darkness can be dangerous ... without lights we have big problems. No wonder it's not only kids who are afraid of the dark.

How does Jesus speak into your darkness? Coming to church to hear God's Word is a good place to start. But Jesus doesn't want you to wait for Sunday mornings, or Thursday nights to roll around to visit him again. Read your Bible or devotions at home.

When there is an absence of Light, of Jesus; spiritual darkness is scary and dangerous for your soul. That's when Jesus leans forward and whispers loud enough for you to hear: ***"I am the Light of the World."***