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I Am the Light of the World, John 8:12-20

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Introduction

- God's first words in Scripture are "Let there be *light!*"
 - Light and darkness are huge symbols in the Bible. Not only there, they are deeply meaningful across history and culture as well.
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The Light

- Let's explore the meaning of light and darkness briefly.
 - We're able to appreciate this metaphor perhaps even more than they were.
 - Light is the most basic source of life.
 - Light is a source of truth.
 - Light is a basic source of joy.
 - But light can also be dangerous. When it is unmediated and we aren't protected then it would mean the end of life.
 - It can also mean blindness if you have too much light.
 - Too much light can also be revealing of things we don't want to see.
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The I Am

- John concluded this passage by saying no one killed him. Uhh, what?
 - Because if you understand what he claimed then it's a miracle that no one choked him.
 - First, he was at the Feast of Tabernacles when he made this claim.

- At the end of the feast, when the light was going out, Jesus made this claim. The light represented God's glory leading the people in the wilderness.
- First, *ultimate life*.
- Second, *ultimate truth*.
 - Jesus doesn't claim to reflect the glory of God or to point people to the glory of God. He claims that he is the glory of God.
- Third, *ultimate joy*.
 - This is the joy that we all desperately need and desire. The beauty that we desire to be united with. Jesus gives it to us in two ways:
 - First, because his incarnation makes the light accessible to us.

The Calling

- Jesus said that those who follow him will know him and the Father, and they will never walk in darkness. What does this mean? How do you know that you've met Jesus?
 - How do you wake someone who is sleeping? Turn on the light. Open the curtains.
 - The light rouses those who are asleep. So you know you're meeting Jesus if...
- If he angers you, surprises you, or attracts you, then you are being roused by the Light. Look to the one who is able to give sight to the blind (John 9).
 - But how is he able to rescue a people of darkness out of their darkness?
 - When he gave up his spirit on the cross there was darkness...
 - He entered the darkness and overcame so that he can rescue those in the darkness.
- What does his calling mean? Four ways to live:
 - First, live attractively.
 - Second, live courageously.
 - Third, live hopefully.

End Notes