

Introduction:

How do we navigate the darkness of the world around us?

What do I do with the darkness that is within me?

Jesus' declaration in revealing who He is:

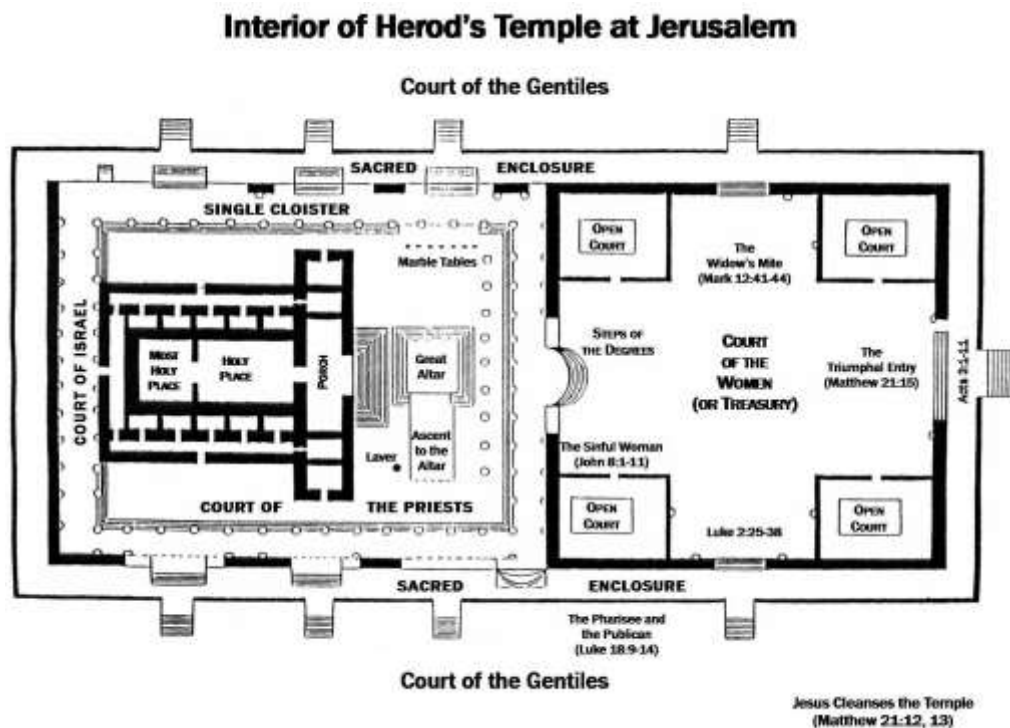
¹² When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, ***"I am the light of the world.***

Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 8:12

Cultural context

Jesus made this declaration during the Feast of Tabernacles/Booths (Sukkot)



*Image – Dr. J. Vernon McGee 5-Year Bible Study Program – Information on Herod's Temple

The light:

Jesus is not _____ among _____ lights of the world.

Jesus is the light. His way is exclusive and inclusive.

What does light do?

- Light _____ – Illuminates and exposes Ephesians 5:8-13
- Light _____ – The Word of God Psalm 119:105
- Light brings _____ – Nothing good grows in the dark John 1:1-5

Only Jesus can dispel the _____ and _____ in your life.

Living in darkness vs. walking in the light

⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹ Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹² It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³ But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. ¹⁴ This is why it is said: **“Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”**

Ephesians 5:8-14

Light of life vs. shadow of death

Jesus is the light that _____ over the _____ of the world.

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

Isaiah 9:2

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:14-16

Discussion Questions:

1. Today we learned that Jesus is “The Light of the World”. Who or what are you looking to as a source of light in your life? What can you do today to refocus on Jesus?
2. What did you learn about the “*Feasts of Tabernacles*”? How does this context help you better understand Jesus’ declaration of, “I Am the Light of the World?”
3. Jesus statement, “I Am the Light of the World” is both exclusive (He’s the one and only) and inclusive (He’s available to anyone). How does this challenge what the world says about Jesus and Christianity?
4. Read Matthew 5:14-16. How does this passage challenge you to live as light for Jesus in every relationship you have in life?