

Sunday 17th January 2021

I am the light of the world John 8:12-20

As we continue our series of I AM – Please remember Exodus 3:14 – Moses asks God what name he should give to Israelites when they ask what God’s name is. God’s reply is “I AM WHO I AM”.

So as we look at these ‘I AM’ statements we need to remember firstly that by beginning the statements with I AM, Jesus is making the point really clear to everyone that He is God.

So as we look at this 2nd statement, I am the light of the world, where is Jesus sat? Go back and read the passage if you need to. He is talking in the temple and specifically near where the offerings are given. Now in this area people would come in and light candles. Why do they light candles here? To remember that God led them through the desert as a light during the night. Jesus is not just saying He is God by saying ‘I am’, but he is making the point even stronger by implying he was that light which led the people through the desert.

But Jesus pushes this point, that he is God even more. At the time he is speaking a festival is taking place the Feast of the Tabernacles or Feast of Booths or Sukkot. A festival where the Jewish people would live outside under shelter to remember the time Moses and the people wandered the desert. If you hadn’t got the reference yet, then you would have by now.

Again though, Jesus pushes this point home. He states he isn’t just a light he uses the Greek “Egō eimi to phos tou kosmou,” which translates as “THE” light, the only one. There are no others. He is the only light. He isn’t just another Rabbi, no, he is God

So he’s got their attention. He goes on to say: *Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.*

He isn’t saying follow me, I’m the light up ahead of you, like the pillar of light in Egypt, Instead he says “Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, **but will have the light of life.**

What is the light of life? We’ve just read it, when Jesus spoke again to the people he said “*I am the light of the world*” Jesus is the light of life. If we follow Him we get Him, he is with us. Not ahead, not behind but with us.

So what is our response? To just walk in Jesus’ light with Him? Yes it is that, but we must shine his light to others. Covid has given us a perfect opportunity to do this. Our friends and family are isolated and people are finding it tough. We’re communicating online and through phone calls with each other. I hope we are praying for our friends and family as normal, but do they know you are praying for them? Have you told them? Or have you when chatting with someone offered to pray for them? Just throw it in as a comment. It is amazing the amount of people I’ve just said “Oh, I’ll be praying for you.” and then a week or two later they bring it up by asking “Did you really pray for me?”

Give it a go. Let’s shine a bit of light onto our friends, family and community as we travel through this year together.