

Silent Light
Hope Shines Brightest When God Is Silent

November 30, 2025

Isaiah 9:1-2; Matthew 4:12-17; John 1:6-12 a

The Light Of The World Has Come

I. Life can dim your hope for change

- A. Captain Jeremiah Denton's POW captivity
- B. Many "heros of the faith"
- C. Many reasons we lose hope
 - 1. The addiction returned
 - 2. The diagnosis stayed
 - 3. The marriage never healed
 - 4. The depression never lifted
 - 5. The anxiety didn't fade
 - 6. The prodigal didn't come home
 - 7. The loneliness stayed
- D. Disappointment, over time, reshapes the heart
- E. *Transformed* by the renewing of the mind
- F. *Deformed* by the reconditioning of the mind

II. Darkness can reshape the way you live

- A. Darkness is not God's design for you
- B. God designed you to
 - 1. Live in the Light
 - 2. Serve out of overflow
 - 3. Experience joy in all circumstances
 - 4. Rest in the Savior
- C. Darkness will create a new normal
 - 1. Function in the dark
 - 2. Smile in public
 - 3. Survive in private
 - 4. Stop expecting God to move

III. Harbingers of Hopelessness

- A. Questions of despondency
- B. Atmosphere of oppression
- C. Victim mentality
- D. Shrinking expectations
- E. Cynicism as wisdom

IV. Jesus enters the places we have given up on (Matthew 4:12-17)

- A. Jesus does not begin in Jerusalem
- B. Jesus begins in Galilee of the Gentiles
 - 1. Outsiders
 - 2. Mixed identities
 - 3. Wounded histories
 - 4. Unresolved stories
 - 5. People written off by the religious elite
- C. These are not the holy people
- D. They are the forgotten people
- E. Jesus goes where hope has died

V. Light invades the darkness to dispel it (Matthew 4:16)

- A. The Light comes to those who need Him
 - 1. Not people who improved
 - 2. Not people who prayed harder
 - 3. Not people who got it together
 - 4. People in the dark
- B. Why God sends the Light
 - 1. Galilee (like us) was shrouded in darkness
 - 2. It is the nature of light to dispel the darkness
 - 3. We cannot find the Light on our own
 - 4. God is a seeker
 - 5. To fulfill His promise (Isaiah 9:1-2)

VI. What we must understand about light

- A. The nature of light
 - 1. Light illuminates
 - 2. Light warms

- 3. Light exposes
- B. The power of light
 - 1. Light purifies
 - 2. Light heals
 - 3. Light provides power
 - 4. Light provides safety
 - 5. Light gives life

VII. The Light of the World has come (John 8:12)

- A. Jesus: "I am the Light of the World"
- B. Claim is important & radical
 - 1. One of the 7 "I Am" statements
 - 2. "I Am" is the name of Yahweh
 - 3. "I Am" is identifying Jesus as God
- C. Jesus came in the exact time, place, & way God ordained
 - 1. In history
 - a. Roman peace & stability
 - b. Roman roads & trade routes
 - c. Universal Greek language
 - d. Prophetic timetable
 - 2. On the calendar
 - a. Jewish Festival of Lights (Sukkot & Shemini Atzeret)
 - b. Lighting of the candelabras
 - 3. In the Temple
 - a. On the steps at the Court of Women
 - b. Proximity to Herod's Temple
 - c. All of Jerusalem was illuminated by the light of the Temple
 - d. The whole world is illuminated by Christ
 - 4. During the ceremony
 - a. On the steps at the Court of Women
 - b. Last lamp remained lit as a reminder
- D. Jesus is the fulfillment of the coming promise of Salvation

VIII. Turn toward the Light that illuminates the world (Matthew 4:17)

- A. Repentance is required
 - 1. Reorient your life to the Light
 - 2. Return to the God who loves you
 - 3. Come out of hiding in the darkness
- B. What won't work
 - 1. Trying harder
 - 2. Doing better
 - 3. Fixing yourself
 - 4. Being stronger
- C. Turn your face toward the One who has already drawn near

IX. The shared vision of a people walking in the light

- A. We know that things do change
- B. We know that darkness is not eternal
- C. We have hope in the here & now
- D. We know God is responsible for our transformation
- E. We understand the process & power of our suffering
- F. We realize we are never too far gone
- G. We become evangelistic

X. Living in *The Light* - your first steps

- A. Name the darkness: the place where hope has died
- B. Turn toward Jesus in that exact place, not in theory
- C. Let the Light break in, not by effort, but by surrender

**You May Wait In The Dark,
But God Has Sent His Light Into The World**