

Sermon Series: Book of John

Sermon title: I AM the light of the world

Scripture reading: John 8:12

Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church

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I spent some time this week studying this text but although I read and read about this text, I felt more and more disturbed and asked myself how this text fits into our present situation in Hong Kong.

I do not want to avoid the elephant in the room this morning.

I will not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of the word of God, even if you choose to do to me what they wanted to do to Jesus in John 7 and 8.

I love you and this morning I don't want to preach a message as much as I want to shepherd the flock.

Darkness has descended upon our city my dear brothers and sisters.

I have asked myself over and over and we've prayed for our city on Thursday nights and we've all asked the question, "How did we get here?" and "What is the solution?"

Well, I am here this morning to proclaim to you the good news.

**I know the way out of this dark time in our city.
Jesus Christ is the answer.**

Now that may seem very vague, so let me be clearer.

Jesus Christ is the light....Jesus Christ has the truth....Jesus Christ has the answer to this problem we have in Hong Kong and he has the answer to mankind's deepest problem; Sin, which is the deepest darkness.

He is the only one who can illuminate, the only one who can shed light on our situation and show us the way.

For it is written in **Psalm 119:105**, "Your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path."

Listen again to our text today in **John 8:12**

12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

The answer to the problem in Hong Kong is for every person, every boy, every girl, every foreigner living here, every Mainland Chinese, every Hong Kong Chinese, every protester, every politician, every policeman, Carrie Lam and Xi Jinping.....

to surrender to Jesus Christ as their ruler, to follow him and obey what he says.

For whoever follows Jesus Christ will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.

And whoever does not follow Jesus, whoever does not believe in him will 'die in their sins' as Jesus said in

John 8:21, 24

You may ask this morning, "How can Jesus Christ shed light on Hong Kong, how can Jesus Christ illuminate us in this city?" "Really."

"Who is he that we should obey him?"

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:1-4

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

John 1:9-13

The light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God." **John 3:19-21**

No one every spoke like this man! **John 7:46**

So again, I ask you this morning,

"How can Jesus Christ shed light on Hong Kong?"

"How can Jesus Christ illuminate us in this city?"

We surely need it!

Listen to the words of Jesus, the light of the world. Listen to the truth of what he has to say, for he has the answer and his words are the message that will dispel the darkness, even the darkness in hearts.

If we will obey the words of Jesus and surrender to him, God will heal our city and dispel this dark cloud that we are in.

Here is where we are sinning. Here is where we need to hear and obey.

Luke 6:27-36

27 "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, **28** bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. **29** To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. **30** Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. **31** And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them. **32** "If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. **33** And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. **34** And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. **35** But love your enemies, and do good, and lend,

expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. **36** Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

1 John 2:7-11

Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.

Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

Jesus's words shine light on our dark sin.

Hatred is not of God.

Hating another human being is not loving our neighbor.

Is there any one of us in this room who is innocent?

Do we think we are better than others?

Do we look down on others who speak a different language?

Do we look down on those who have not had the privileges we have had financially or in education?

Does where someone comes from make someone below us; even if they come from across the border 5 kilometers away and even if we are of the same ethnicity?

We are all guilty of not loving our neighbor.

Jesus tells us to go beyond loving our neighbor even to loving our enemies.

That means that we are to love those whom you consider your enemies, no matter who you think they might be.

Obeying Jesus is the answer.

Sweeping it under the rug...and leaving the hatred in our hearts is not the answer.

Loving our neighbor and loving our enemies is the answer.

The church has not spoken enough.

We, of all people, need to repent of not proclaiming the words of Jesus. We are bearers of light, [the pillar and buttress of the truth \(1 Timothy 3:15\)](#) and I dare say we have a responsibility to lead the city in truth,

righteousness and shedding light; leading out in love and not hate.

We are to let our light so shine before men that they may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven. **Matthew 5:16**

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. **4** In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. **5** For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. **6** For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5:8-17

8 for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light **9** (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), **10** and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. **11** Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. **12** For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. **13** But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible,

14 for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

15 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, **16** making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. **17** Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

My dear brothers and sisters, Jesus is **“The light of the world. Whoever follows him will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”**

What this great city of Hong Kong needs is for Jesus Christ to illuminate it.

The multi-faceted darkness of a multitude of sins can only be dispersed as we turn away from our sin and embrace and obey the truth of God’s word.

And that begins with me and that begins with you.

May we Behold his light and his glory– to the extent that WE are transformed.

Then and only then... will we have faces that radiate his light and hearts that love our neighbors and love our enemies....and infect others one by one until the city is healed.