

Light is great, it implies safety, enables us to see for miles and do all sorts of things. However, light can also obscure important things.

Those of us who drive will be aware that some modern car headlamps are painfully bright, even if they are properly adjusted. This means we may not see the huge pothole in the darkness, hidden in shadows caused by the light.

When we talk about Jesus as being 'the light of the world' it is, in part, about Him showing us clearly what is wrong and what is right, it is not about condemnation, but rather more about education.

Jesus wants to teach us and lead us, not drive us and punish us. His yoke is 'light', meaning not a burden, it can also mean that it is 'illuminating' as we learn to walk in step with Him.

A popular Graham Kendrick song is 'Shine Jesus shine' which expresses how all of the Trinity work together to 'bring light to our darkness' through encouragement whereas the Pharisees, who were trying to find fault in Jesus, could only see the negatives in the Law of Moses as opposed to the freedom that Jesus brought with His teaching.

What was your 'light bulb moment' in discovering Jesus and what happened next?

Read John 8:12-20

1. With the benefit of hindsight [and the Gospels] it is easy to criticise the Pharisees but is that being fair? What could they have done differently?
2. What was the reasoning behind the Pharisees argument about two witnesses? [See Num 35:30, Deut 17:6, 19:15 eg.]

3. What do you think was the significance of where, specifically, the debate took place in our reading today? [Verse 20].
4. Without getting distracted by the (potential) time difference between the 'Woman caught in adultery' story and today's reading, who would have made up the audience to this debate and why is that important?
5. We are told that 'no one seized him (Jesus)'. Who might have and on what grounds could they have?
6. Read verse 14 again. We can interpret what Jesus is saying because we know what happens later on. What do you think those present would have made of Jesus' self justification in this verse?
7. What does it mean to judge 'by human standards'? What is the implication for justice in a modern court of law? [Verse 15].
8. What does Jesus mean where He says 'I pass judgement on no one'. Compare with John 3:17-18. What is different?
9. Verse 17 has Jesus quoting the Law to the teachers of the Law regarding the truth when two witnesses testify. Is this a reliable concept? Was it then? [See 1 Kings 21 for example].
10. How does 'knowing' [Verse 19] make a difference?
11. Why, do you think, the Pharisees and other important leaders, failed to recognise who Jesus was when other 'simpler folk' could see and understand? Is that still true today?

Prayer Points

Please pray for the pastoral team as they continue to support others. With juggling several team members having been away, there are many matters that need to be coordinated.

Pray for the nation of Nepal as it continues to readjust. A new Government was appointed in the elections in March after the turmoil that led to the previous Government resigning.

Sermon Notes



BIBLE STUDY

May 10th 2026

Light of the World

John 8:12 - 20

In the Gospel of John, Jesus progressively reveals His divine identity while confronting deep unbelief. He is presented as the light who exposes spiritual darkness, showing that true blindness is not physical but a refusal to recognise truth. As the Good Shepherd, He embodies sacrificial love, intimate care, and secure belonging for His people. This part of the gospel also emphasises faith as trust in His person rather than mere signs. These passages highlight themes of revelation, belief versus rejection, abundant life, and the growing tension between divine truth and human resistance.

If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001