

Sunday, April 7, 2019 - "A Church Without Curtains REMIX - Week 7" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: John 8:12-20, John 7:37-38

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- Light is thematic from Genesis → Revelation (13 times in beginning of Genesis, 33 times in the Psalms)
- Jesus made some bold claims that if they weren't would be crazy
- He makes another one of those claims in John 8:12-20
 - Context 3 annual feasts
 - Really the Exodus story (remembering what God did and looking towards what He would do)
 - This passage during the Feast of Tabernacles
- Again Jesus spoke...
 - John 7:37-38 (in the morning) He says he is living water
 - John 8 (in the afternoon) He says he is the light of the world
- Feast of Tabernacles
 - They lived in 3 sided temporary shelters called tabernacles all throughout town
 - The celebrated **water** (from the rock in the desert) and **light** (the presence of God as pillar of fire)
 - Ritual of pouring water and lighting 70 ft candelabras → Jesus spoke about being living water and light of the world right where/when these would have taken place
 - 1st century people would have know Jesus was saying "I am the Messiah"
- Jesus: I'm God ... Pharisees: Who is your witness? (it was kind of a silly question)
- Jesus is living water...if you believe, Jesus is light...if you follow
- What does light mean for us?
 - 1) Light represents **God's Presence**
 - Number 6:24-26, Psalm 4:6-7a
 - Abba father fixing his gaze on his child, God with you in all that you do
 - 2) Light represents **God's Salvation**
 - Psalm 27:1, Psalm 44:3
 - Only in Jesus: Salvation from death/sin/sickness
 - 3) Light represents **God's Direction** (directing our steps Psalm 119:105)
 - 4) Light represents **God's Revelation**
 - In Jesus we see who God really is
 - Jesus says: If you know me, you know the father
- In God there is no darkness...but we all hide and put up curtains to block out the light
- Satan is real and wants to destroy us (he is powerless before Jesus)
- But we can create "beachheads" for Satan to enter in and work in our lives through hidden sin
- Jesus is the answer to every problem we are facing but we have to expose our problems to him
- Jesus said "I am the light of the world" he came to destroy darkness

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. What does it mean to you personally when Jesus says "I am the light of the world"
2. How have you experienced God's presence, salvation, direction, or revelation in your life?
3. If you're comfortable sharing, when was a time you created a beachhead for satan to enter and work in your life?
4. How do you think sharing your secrets and hidden sin can allow the Lord to work in and through you?
5. What are some practices and habits you need in your life to help you expose your problems and hidden stuff to the Lord and others?
6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or sermon?

****15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

Mon: Isaiah 43:16-21 Tues: Psalm 126 Wed: Philippians 3:1-14 Thurs: John 12:1-8 Fri: Psalm 118

Songs from the weekend:[One Thing Remains - *Bethel Music*] - [Raise a Hallelujah - *Bethel Music*] - [Our Father - *Bethel Music*] - [Come Lord Jesus + Always - *Shane & Shane, Kristian Stanfil*]