



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions The Best Gift of All – Jesus Series, Lesson 29

Lesson Title: Jesus is the Gift of Light

Take Home Point: Jesus is the light that guides our lives.

Warm-Up:

Have you ever encountered people who don't want to learn something that may change their lives? I have. And I think there is nothing sadder than determined, deliberate ignorance. This condition can result from fear or pride, but is most often the result of plain old self-centeredness. For example, in our culture the message of freedom from sin and death in Christ Jesus is frequently drowned out by the cries of those who do not want to be told they are sinners. This is not because they don't want to improve their lives. It is because the improvement offered by accepting Christ's sacrifice means admitting guilt to a God to whom they do not want to be responsible. They want to be in control, even if that means refusing God's wonderful presence now and in eternity. They are willing to have some light to guide them, but not the true light of the world that requires giving up self-gratification.

Read: John 1:1-9, 3:16-21

Observation (What happened?):

Why did God the Father send his Son Jesus into the world?

Why don't people want to come into the light?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What does it mean that Jesus is the light that came into the world?

Why do you think it is so hard for people to want to come into the light?

Insight:

"When you get there, go immediately to admissions to be sure you are registered. Then, walk to your dorm room, unpack, and carefully put away your clothes. Right after that, get over to the bookstore so you get all your books. Here's a check for the book deposit. Be sure to call me after you get there to let me know you're okay." That might be reasonable direction for a young person going off to college, but wouldn't it be silly to tell that to your two year-old? We don't give lifelong directions to our children all at once, so why do we expect more of our Heavenly Father who really does know what is best for us? God assures us he will guide us when we seek the light of Jesus Christ. That does not mean we will receive an epiphany that reveals our entire life path. He takes us step by step not only so we can grow in our faith, but also because we are not usually ready for his plan all at once. He "lights up" what he knows we are ready to see and where we are to go. Remember that the next time you can't see all the specifics of where he is leading you. When you belong to Jesus, you belong to the light of the world.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How do you respond to the light Jesus offers?

What are you doing to listen to God's guidance along your life walk?