BLINDED BY THE LIGHT John 8:12-20

Jesus, "I am the Light of the World

The three groups of people in this story Christ Himself Christ's followers Christ Haters Followers of Jesus walk in the light and have the light of life

I. Our Internal Condition - confidence Like the Israelites following the Pillar of Cloud/Fire

No Fear, no confusion, no stumbling, just following

I. Our Internal Condition - confidence

The way is illuminated Life makes sense

Medical science can add <u>years</u> to your life; only Jesus can add <u>life</u> to your years People without Christ are disoriented and confuse

I. Our Internal Condition - confidence

Dr. Albert Szent-Gyorgyi, Nobel Laureate in Medicine and Physiology, in reply to being asked what he would do if he were 20 today: "I would share with my classmate's rejection of the whole world as it is—all of it.

I. Our Internal Condition - confidence

Is there any point in studying and work? Fornication—at least that is something good. What else is there to do? Fornicate and take drugs against this terrible strain of idiots who govern the world."

Followers of Jesus walk in the light and have the light of life

II. External Behavior Walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16) Walk in love (Ephesians 5:2) Do not walk after the flesh, but according to the Spirit (Romans 8:1)

II. External Behavior

Do not walk in darkness, but walk in the <u>light</u> (Ephesians 5:8)

Our <u>behavior</u> changes when we come to Christ Former behavior is replaced with God-<u>honoring</u> lifestyle Followers of Jesus walk in the light and have the light of life **III. Spiritual Influence** We have the light of life It doesn't just come to you; you are a shaft of light

You reflect the greater light (like the moon reflects the glory of the sun)

III. Spiritual Influence

As long as Jesus was in the world He was the light of the world. When He is with the Father, believers are the light of the world (John 9:5; Matthew 5:14) We are called to be light (Ephesians 5:8)

III. <u>Spiritual</u> Influence

Our influence can be staggering Instead of complaining about darkness, we need to shine the light

If you follow and reflect glory now, you will shine and be celebrated forever (Daniel 12:3; Matthew 13:43) Be a life that light shines through

Christ Haters–The Light Rejecters When Jesus is loved, received, and followed, He becomes light to you; When He is hated, rejected, and spurned He becomes darkness to you

Like the Pillar of Cloud/Fire (Exodus 14:20)

R. Kent Hughes:

"Hugh Hefner was raised in a minister's home. Joseph Stalin studied for the priesthood.Mao Tse-tung was raised under missionary teaching."

Light of Jesus becomes darkness to those who hate Him

Not everyone likes the light of Christ Shining (John 3:20)

People hate the light because the light reveals what darkness conceals - flaws

We must shed light in a manner as wise as serpents, as harmless as doves (Matthew 10:16)