



Sermon Outline for Sunday, March 13, 2022
Second Sunday of Lent
Rev. Kathleen Owens | John 8:12-16, 9:1-7

Intro

- Lenten series on John/full context of these statements
- Pharisees woman caught in adultery as a test (8: 1-11)
- Jesus: "... cast the first stone."

John 8: 12-16

12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.' 13 Then the Pharisees said to him, 'You are testifying on your own behalf; your testimony is not valid.' 14 Jesus answered, 'Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid because I know where I have come from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. 15 You judge by human standards; I judge no one. 16 Yet even if I do judge, my judgement is valid; for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me.

Reference Prologue

- John 1: 4b-5 "What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

Ongoing debate with Pharisees over Jesus' authority.

- Relationship to Abraham/the tradition
- Questions of sin not in the behavior or action sense, but as separation from or denial of God/God's authority.
- Eventually Pharisees are so frustrated they pick the stones up, Jesus leaves.

John 9: 1-7

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' ³Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

What does it mean to see?

- Light, not just the opposite of darkness, the story of the blind man's healing helps us to see that Jesus is not talking about visible light.
- Jesus's light is about seeing with the Spirit
- In Lent, we are seeking to grow closer to Jesus, to better understand who Jesus says that he is, and who we say that Jesus is for ourselves. The two "I am the Light of the World" statements come within a larger commentary about how we judge others. If Jesus is the light, what does that show us? How does that help us to view our neighbors as Jesus would?
- When we claim Jesus as the "light of the world" we have the strength to look into the darkness, as seek Christ's light that no darkness can overcome.

"The light of the world is in our midst, and we need not shut our eyes. In fact, the best thing to do is to open our eyes, wide. We will not be blinded by the light. We will be saved."

- Deborah J. Kapp *Feasting on the Word: Year A, vol. 2.*

Conclusion:

Jesus is the Light of the World... We proclaim this at Christmas in the incarnation, we proclaim it in Lent, we proclaim it even on Good Friday, and in all the times when it seems there is no light. For Christ is the light that no darkness can overcome.