

The background of the slide is a deep blue color with a subtle, shimmering texture that resembles water reflecting light. A bright, white sun is visible on the left side, creating a vertical streak of light and a shimmering reflection on the water's surface. The overall effect is serene and peaceful.

Jesus the Light of The World

Summary

- St John – witness of the light
- Jesus tells the Jews, He is the light of the world
- The Feast of the Tabernacles
- Light & Darkness
- How can we live in the light

St John's Gospel

- 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name *was* John. 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light. 9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. (John1: 6-8)
- The Lord Jesus Christ is the Light of the World, the One Who has Opened the Door of Hope.

Life equals Light

- As per commentary from Father Tadros El Malty, Life equals Light, therefore darkness means death /sin (Mathew 5:16)
- St Paul experienced the blinding light of the Lord Jesus on the road to Damascus and he was changes from Saul to the great St Paul.

Jesus says He is the “light of the world”

Then Jesus Spoke to them again saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life”
John 8:12

- In John 8, Jesus identifies Himself as the Light of the world. It is important however to go back to the start of John 7, to understand the circumstances and the place where Christ chose to give this explanation to the Jews. It was the time of the Feast of the Tabernacles.

Feast of Tabernacles

- This was the third of the 3 major Jewish Feasts, which required a pilgrimage to Jerusalem by all Jews to worship in the Temple and offer sacrifices and offerings to the Lord. Thousands of Jews, including those living outside of Jerusalem would attend this pilgrimage.
- This is perhaps the holiest and greatest feast for the Jews. It is celebrated in the seventh Jewish month (about September-October). During this time the Jews give thanks to God, and acknowledge God's provision for them. They also remember their deliverance from Egypt and their subsequent wandering in the wilderness for forty years. During this time of wandering Israel lived in tents and worshiped at the Tabernacle which was also a tent.
- For 7 days during this Feast, the Jews celebrate and live outside of their homes. They stayed in tents to remind them of their days of wandering in the desert, when they lacked nothing, and God provided them with food and water.
- One of the key characteristics of the Feast of Tabernacle from the other feasts is the illumination of the Temple. Another feature of the feast was illumination of the Temple. The pilgrims who came to the Temple would bring lights and torches. The golden lamp stands would also be lighted illuminating the Temple.

Feast of Tabernacles

- The eighth and final day is a significant celebration. On the eighth day of the feast, the high priest of Israel, in a great procession made up of priests and tens of thousands of worshipers, descended from the Temple Mount to pause briefly at the Pool of Siloam. A pitcher was filled with water, and the procession continued via a different route back to the Temple Mount. Here, in the midst of great ceremony, the high priest poured the water out of the pitcher onto the altar, and into a basin located at the base of the altar.

This ceremony was intended to invoke God's blessing on the nation by providing life-giving water (rain for the crops).

- It is in connection with the Feast of Tabernacles and this eighth day that the gospel of John records a fascinating event. John wrote: *"In the last day (eighth day), that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water"* (John 7:37-38).

Feast of Tabernacles

- During that feast, it was customary to use a huge candlestick with branches. Four of its lamps were filled with oil and they had to use a ladder to go up to light it. This light was exceedingly bright. Mishah states: "There was no area in Jerusalem where the light was not reflected." This brilliant light was a very rare sight in the old cities.
- The Lord Jesus Christ stood where the lights used to be lit and He dazzled those coming to the Feast. The darkness had replaced the light, so He proclaimed the need for the Divine light, the Messiah who is the light who has come for all people.
- Isaiah states: "I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness, and will hold your hand, I will keep you and give you as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles, to open blind eyes, to bring prisoners from the prison, those who sit in darkness from the prison house (Is 42:6-7) --- that you should be my salvation to the ends of the earth (Is 49:6) "I will also give you as a light to the Gentiles, and I will made my justice rest as a light of the peoples---" (Is 51:4).

- The Lord Jesus chose to tell the Jews that he is the light of the world on the eight day of the Feast of the Tabernacles to announce to them that He is the Messiah. Christ wanted to remind the Jews of the pillar of light that led them in the wilderness.
- Pharisees realized that by saying these words the Lord was indicating that He is the awaited Messiah, since the prophets had used the symbol of light when they spoke of Him (Is 60:1; 49:7; 9:9).

How can we be the light of the world?

- ❑ Jesus says “He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life” (John 8:12)
- ❑ Just like food, light is necessary for our life. No one can live very long in darkness. Even plants need light to grow. And without light we can't see.
- ❑ Jesus came to be the Light to the dark and ignorant world. Do we carry His light wherever we go so that his light shine in us and lead others to know Him?

Following Christ

- The Lord Jesus Christ speaks of man's life as a journey in the middle of a dark world.
- A person needs the sun of righteousness to shine upon him/her and to accompany him throughout his life
- He is the true light in which we find our peace.
- As we look up to Him and make friends with Him; as we have faith and walk in Him, He will become our light. He will lead us in this world and will lift us up through the Holy Spirit to the heavens. There, we will enjoy the promise of eternity.

Following Christ

- Jesus urges us in John 8:12 to follow Him, He wants us to see the Light, to learn to have an open heart, accepting all people, and to be merciful with others.
- The other characteristic which Jesus wants us to learn from Him, is to witness to God. Jesus bore witness of God His Father during the Feasts of the Tabernacles. This was at a time where He knew He would be in front of many people (possibly the most number of Jews he stood before), and right in the heart of the territory of His enemies. He preached His Witness, in the Temple of Jerusalem amongst all the Pharisees and high priest, knowing full well that they were already jealous of Him, and plotting to kill Him. If we do not bear witness of God in our lives, then we are like the Pharisees, hypocrites and living in darkness.

To Live in the Light

- Without Christ in our life, we live in darkness. Darkness equals sin and separation from God.
- Let Jesus be the Leader of your life.

To be the Light of Christ in our life:

- Abide in Christ through the Holy Sacraments
- Seek the Lord's guidance through prayer and reading the bible
- Live by Christ's words and teachings:
 - Love and encourage your brother or sister
 - Speak up when you see wrong
 - Care for the poor and needy
 - Be firm and say "No" to the wrong doing
 - Show mercy and kindness to all around you

Saying from St Augustine

St. Augustine

- .. Let us follow Him now so that we may be rewarded later on. Let us follow Him in faith, so that we may receive grace later on by our eyes. The apostle accordingly says: "Therefore, we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Cor. 5:6-7).

Prayer based on the contemplation of St John's Gospel Ch8

May Your Light Shine Upon Me

And

May My Judgment be Transformed into an Eternal Wedding!

.. May You shine upon my heart with the light of Your love

And may You enter with me into the violent judgment court of the Pharisees

Instead of bringing me to judgment, prepare me for the eternal wedding!

I no longer fear their stony hearts that throw stones at me

For You pour Your sublime love into my depths.

There is no lawyer to defend me:

You are my Mediator, Saviour, and the Liberator of my soul!

You hold my hand and bring me into Your Kingdom, O holy One!

.. The world sought to condemn me, but has condemned itself

Grant me the will not to condemn anyone, lest I fail and be condemned by You

May I condemn myself, then you will save me by Your Blood, O Saviour of the world!

You alone can renew my life with Your Holy Spirit

You transform adulterers into saints

O holy One who has changed the nature of the furnace into coolness for the three youths

And the nature of the hungry lions into friends of Daniel the prophet!

.. You have commanded me not to go back and sin

Who can fulfil that without Your grace?

It is a divine commandment, indeed, it is a divine promise fulfilled in Me

Prayer from St John's Gospel Ch8

Cont'd

You are the Light of the world: You are My light
As I walk in Your light, the darkness of sin cannot creep into my being.
.. You are the Source of living water that overflows within me
You are the Light of the world, changing my inner depths into a shining lamp!
You are the Son of God, granting me the spirit of adoption through Your Holy Spirit
You carry me from slavery to the glorious freedom enjoyed by God's children!
.. I boasted of my lineage to Abraham, the father of the fathers
But I wilfully did not follow his example
I became a slave to sin, and a child of Satan the deceiver.
I became a stone with no spiritual feelings.
Now, You have transformed me into a child of Abraham
You tear away my slavery to sin and make me a servant to Righteousness
You carry me into the fold of the adopted children of God Your Father!
Now I truly rejoice at the Lord's Day with my father Abraham!
Glory be to You, O Giver of liberty to all mankind
O Source of true joy!
When will I see You face to face, and so join all my fathers and become as a bride
sanctified to You!
Amen