

THE BRIGHTEST LUMINA

John 8:1 But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. 2 And early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him. And He sat down and taught them. 3 And the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman taken in adultery. And standing her in the midst, 4 they said to Him, Teacher, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. 5 Now Moses in the Law commanded us that such should be stoned. You, then, what do you say? 6 They said this, tempting Him so that they might have reason to accuse Him. But bending down, Jesus wrote on the ground with His finger, not appearing to hear. 7 But as they continued to ask Him, He lifted Himself up and said to them, He who is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone at her. 8 And again bending down, He wrote on the ground. 9 And hearing, and being convicted by conscience, they went out one by one, beginning at the oldest, until the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. 10 And bending back up, and seeing no one but the woman, Jesus said to her, Woman, where are the ones who accused you? Did not one give judgment against you? 11 And she said, No one, Lord. And Jesus said to her, Neither do I give judgment. Go, and sin no more. 12 Then Jesus spoke again to them, saying, I am the Light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Many people have come to the world and claimed to have discovered solutions to human issues, professors and highly educated people have come up with theories to deal with human conflict and problems.

Governments have devised wise and complicated legislature to deal with sophisticated crime. Unfortunately, if you look around us you will realize that humanity has reached its lowest levels of moral decay. This is despite all the efforts that have been put in order to deal with the rot among us.

It simply tells us that there is no amount of illumination and human-man ideals that can deal with the human decay.

This morning, I want to talk to you on the subject matter; **THE BRIGHTEST LUMINA.**

- We need a different type of light, a different type of illumination to deal with the mess we are in right now.
- You might not know what the word lumina means, but simply put, in science, it refers to the brightness of light and in literature it means enlightenment, illumination, or inspiration.

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- It is from these meanings that I want to kick start my talk this morning. We are living in a very dark world, the type of darkness that sucks you in until you can easily accept it as normal.
- You would know that darkness is an indication of the absence of light – if there is darkness in your world, it means that there is an absence of light.
- In verse 12, we are told *Jesus spoke again to them, saying, I am the Light of the world.*
- What prompted Jesus to make this declaration? It is a profound pronouncement because He does not say “I am a light of the world” but rather He says “I am the light of the world” This means that He is not one of the many lights but rather the only light of the world.
- The context will help us in this case. Jesus had been preaching in the temple and whilst preaching, He was rudely interrupted by the religious leaders of the time, who brought before Him a woman caught in the act of adultery.
- They came accusing this woman of breaking the Law of Moses, thereby deserving of capital punishment. They wanted to see what Jesus was going to do and therefore it was not a quest for righteousness but one riddled with mischief, malice, and deceit.
- These religious leaders were standing before Jesus with hearts full of darkness – I have never seen anyone who commits adultery alone, it takes more than one person. Where was the man who was party to this horrendous act, if they really wanted to practice the law of Moses?
- In other words, these leaders were not genuine in their pursuit of the Law, hence their hearts were full of darkness.
- The darkness found in the hearts of these religious is no different from the darkness found around us and sometimes in us.
- These leaders had no regard for Jesus and just like them, when a people do not have a regard for Jesus, it might be an indication of the presence of great darkness.
- What darkness have you been groping through lately and what blindness are you dealing with now?

Isaiah 60:1 Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of Jehovah has risen on you. 2 For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the peoples;

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but Jehovah shall rise on you, and His glory shall be seen on you. 3 And the nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawning.

- Isaiah was quite pointed in saying that gross darkness will cover the earth and its people.
- The religious leaders professed to respect the law; but in reality, this law had become a dead letter to them.
- We can come to church but never get to walk with the God of the church. We can read scriptures but never experience the power of the scriptures.
- We are living in a world where the fear and reverence for God barely exists even among us of His sheepfold.
- The Pharisee's hearts did not fear God, they were ready to approach Jesus with hearts full of deceit.
- When we are no longer walking in the fear of God, it is clear evidence of darkness covering our hearts.
- The confusion and calamities we see around us are an indication of gross darkness – when you walk in darkness, you will miss your way, you bump into objects, you will take a lie to be a truth.
- The world knows that it is in gross darkness and is trying to create its own light – today we talk about self-emancipation, we talk about relative truths without absolute truth.
- In trying to clear the darkness of sexual immorality, the world is saying the rights of a mother trumps the right to life of the unborn child.
- In trying to clear the darkness of dysfunctional families, the world is saying if a man loves another man, they can get married.
- There is no amount of man-made lighting that can eliminate the gross darkness. In trying to be a light to himself, man has created more darkness.
- COVID 19 was a great testing time for the nations of the world – gross darkness covered the earth. During and after COVID 19, people lost jobs, families fell apart, the love for God waned for many people. Many people have not returned to church since the pandemic.

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- But you and I don't have to walk in darkness anymore because there is a light that shines through all the darkness, there is a light that darkness cannot withstand, and that light is Jesus.
- In the story we read, the Pharisees didn't realize that Jesus knew their thoughts.
- Jesus the light of the world knew their hearts and when you stand before Jesus, the state of your heart will be revealed.
- Isaiah said that whilst great darkness covers the earth, God's people will walk in the light. Isaiah was prophesying of the day that the Messiah would come and provide illumination to a dark world.
- So, what did Jesus mean when He said is the light of the world?

1. Jesus reveals the state of your heart.

- When the brightest lumina shines on your heart, your real condition is exposed. No one can stand in His presence and remain the same.
- When Jesus commanded for the sinless to cast the first stone, the Pharisees were reminded of how they were cheaters, how they were full of unforgiveness, how they were prepared to lie.
- The Bible says, out of conviction, one by one, they left the adulterer alone.
- When Jesus shines His light on you, He does not only reveal the state of your heart but also convicts you to change your ways.
- He reveals, convicts and provides the way out of your sin.
- He acknowledged that the woman had sinned but instead of allowing death to occur, Jesus provided a higher way of dealing with the matter. Jesus said, "Go and sin no more".

2. Jesus lights up the way to life.

- The way to deal with adultery was not stoning to death, it was repentance and forgiveness.
- There is no other light in the world that shows you a way out of drug abuse, there is no other light that directs you out of your messy situation, other than Jesus.
- When you walk with Jesus, you will never walk in darkness again.

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

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- When you walk with Jesus, you will not bump into the same stone again because He shows you where the stone is.
- When you walk with Jesus, you will not continue as a relapsing drug addict, He will walk you out of the drug maze.
- If you have been going in circles, the brightest Lumina Jesus will show you a way out of that cycle.
- When you walk with the light of the world, you will be empowered to become the light of the world as well.

3. Jesus turns you into a light to the world.

- The light of the world, will transform you into His likeness – the likeness of revealing people where they are at, the likeness of showing people where to find help, the likeness of making more people become a light as well.
- The more you spend time with Jesus, the more you become like Him. Do you desire to be like Jesus?
- Every believer must desire to be the light of the world, to influence people for God.
Matthew 5:14 You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do men light a lamp and put it under the grain-measure, but on a lampstand. And it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in Heaven.
- When He called Peter, Jesus told him that He was going to make Him a fisher of man. Jesus is still in the business of making people, He is still transforming people to become more like Him.
- Lets walk with the brightest Lumina and our lives will shine like His life.