

2009 #12 GOSPEL OF JOHN – JESUS' TESTIMONY

John 8:12-30

In our messages with John's Gospel, Jesus has shared that we are born with a timeline for our lives. designed to live satisfied lives in this world. meant to be free from sin and death And today we were meant to live safe and secure.

Researchers at Johns Hopkins University reported that 30 years ago, the greatest fears of grade school children were:

1) Animals, 2) Being in a dark room, 3) High places, 4) Strangers, 5) Loud noises.

Today, kids are afraid of the following:

1) Divorce, 2) war, 3) Cancer, 4) Pollution, 5) Being mugged.

Back to the Bible Today, Summer, 1990, p. 5.

We take so much of our safety and security for granted.

Vince and Ruth Archer the missionaries we support in Mendoza, Argentina

Had something stolen from them that caused them not to be able to

Talk on the phone. You would think the thieves had stolen their cell phones.

Actually, someone stole the copper phone line wires from the poles to sell.

Now they were in a foreign land with no phones lines and no Internet.

They were told that it sometimes takes up to a month

Before the lines are restored.

Vince said: "Some influential people from our neighborhood called

to complain to the phone company and they got our services back in less than 48 hours.

What that meant, unfortunately, is that the phone company

Stole the phone lines that belonged to another part of town

so that we could be back up so soon!

The old gospel hymn say:

We are safe and secure from all alarm.

JESUS PROMISE TO KEEP US SAFE AND SECURE

I. FROM THE DARKNESS

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. John 8:12

I wonder this past month what the 1.3 million people in that ice storm, in Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Arkansas thought of Jesus words?

They were safe and secure

Enjoying light and heat, and comfortable homes,

And in one day, it all changed.

As a massive ice storm raged and put everyone

In an icy veil of darkness

People were left to fend for themselves in winter chill and freezing nights

Not knowing when their furnace would work again,

Or their light would come back on.

Over 40 some person died in the outage.
 As the Tennessee valley electrical company
 Worked in a frenzy to restore their homes to a safe and secure level.
"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,
 The darkness Jesus talking about is
 The soul that is cut off from God.
 The spiritual child that is cut off from his creative father.

We get very angry when we hear about children being taken or kidnapped.
 We have a whole industry that specializes in rescuing and searching.
 An amber system of alert.
 Look at child safety on the internet it has 54 million hits

Separation from family was first expressed by Adam.
 After he had sinned that he was separated from his father,
 he said:
I was afraid....so I hid myself. Genesis 3:10 moffatt
 Life goes underground when it isn't aboveboard.
 Because it no longer has cosmic backing and is conscious of
 Being naked, alone and afraid.

Someone has said that we are born with two fears
 The fear of loud noises and the fear of falling.
 All the other fears are learned
 They are our own.
 Fear of being alone,
 Fear of wasting ones life.
 Fear of the darkness

Last week Jesus encounter with the Pharisees
 and the woman caught in adultery occurred at dawn.
 They wanted her stoned and sent into the ultimate darkness.
 Sin creates that kind of darkness.
 But just as the sun was coming up:
**"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but
 will have the light of life. John 8:12**
 Jesus pointed to the rising sun and
 And said to the Jews I am Jehovah God.
 For the Jews the sun was a symbol of Jehovah God.
For the Lord God is a sun and shield; Psalms 84:11
 Jesus was making the point
 There is only one sun for our universe,
 And there is only one savior, one light for the world's darkness.
 I AM THAT LIGHT.

But Jesus was also reminding them of the Feast of Tabernacles,
 When the huge candelabra was lit in the temple at night to remind
 The people of the pillar of fire that had guided Israel in their wilderness Journey.

Jesus reminds them he was there.
 As the Manna John 6 I am the bread of life
 The Water from John 7 I am the water of life.
 The Pillar of fire: I am the light of the world. John 8

Jesus was saying to them and us.
 When we believe in him.
 Our hunger is satisfied,
 Our thirst is quenched
 And our eyes are ever opened to the truth.

God is light and in him is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. I John 1: 4-7

The thing about light is that it cannot be stopped.
 Just as the sun come up and goes down and
 there not a thing we can do about it.
 So there is nothing we can do about Jesus as the light of the world.
 He is
 He was
 He ever will be.
 All we can do is walk in the light or stay in the darkness.
Open your eyes, or keep them closed.

SECOND PLACE JESUS KEEPS US SAFE AND SECURE IS: II. IN OUR FAMILY CONNECTION, OUR ROOTS

Jesus was absolutely safe and secure about his life
 Because he knew where he belonged.

¹⁴Jesus answered, "Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where I came from and where I am going. But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going.

We are so in need of family connection in our day

That you can now “rent a wife”.

It started in California, company created by Karen Donovan to help clients decorate their homes, balance checkbooks, run errands,

She is now working with her two teenager on “Rent a Family”.

Her kids will do for you what any family does,"

"We can come over and eat all the food, turn on all the lights, put handprints on the walls, take showers and leave the towels on the floor.

She said “When my clients are finished with Rent-A-Family, they'll have to call Rent-A-Wife to clean up.

Campus Life, October, 1980.

Well the Old Pharisee were a small close knit group of Pharisees
 They liked their power and self security.

They wanted to keep it together.
 To pull together.
 But the Pharisees were not only at odds with Jesus
 They were at odds with the scribes, and each other

Reminds me of Winston Churchill's immortal words: "We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills." It sounds exactly like our family vacation.

[Robert Orben.](#)

Jesus knew who he was.
 Who he belong too.
 But who are you? Who do you belong to?
 That's a good question.
 We have counselors that spend a lifetime trying
 To help people know who they are.
 Why they are like they are.

Jesus knew who he was.
 He knew that he came from the Father
 And that he was going to the father.
He said to the Pharisees "you cannot go where I am going."
 Because self sacrifice for others was foreign to them.
 He was going to the cross,
 To hell.
 To set the prisoner free.
 Because he was the
 Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.
 And if he didn't do it than no one could.

But he also knew he was going to a resurrection.
 And that meant going back home to heaven.
 And he did it all for you and me.

The third place Jesus said we can be SAFE and SECURE is

III. ABOUT OUR ETERNAL HOME

²³ "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. ²⁴I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins." John 8:23-24

The third security Jesus gives us is an eternal security.
 Without Christ you will die in the darkness
 Of sin and death.
 Separated from almighty God who created you.

No wonder Jesus appealed to the people on the street.
 They were lost, alone and feeling isolated from God.
 Forbidden to go into the temple holy of holies.

In darkness.

For them Jesus was a bright and morning sun.

²⁴I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins." John 8:24

But if you believe I am the one,
you will not die in your sins,
you will have eternal life.

Jesus moves us from

Where I go you cannot come.

To Where I am there you shall be always.

"If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. John 14:3 NAS

To love the darkness is to live in it.

To turn toward it.

To dwell in it.

You have to hide from sunlight to stay out of it.

We have a whole industry that keep us out of the sunlight.

We have sun blocks, sunscreens, lotions and clothing

Awnings, glasses and umbrellas.

Jesus said:

The unsaved are walking in darkens because they love darkness John 3:17

The only thing that keeps one from seeing the light

Is spiritual choice

The Pharisees were spiritually blind.

The sad thing is not that they didn't just understand.

But they took it one step further.

The scripture says they were unwilling to receive him

They didn't want to understand.

Sadly today we have many people who

Have heard about Jesus

They have seen what he has done.

They have watched Christians live and die in a resurrection faith.

And still choose to turn from Christ and a Christian lifestyle

And live a disobedient Life.

What redeeming about this passage is Vs. 30

³⁰Even as he spoke, many put their faith in him. John 8:30

The same sun that hardens the clay, softens the wax.

Which are you?

Harden clay,

Or soften wax.

Oh today if your 12 or 15,20 or 25 and you already feel you heart

Began to harden, your conscience and will in stiffening up in rebellion,

Don't delay.

Cry out to God to stop this hardening of your soul and conscience.

There is no other alternative.

Either we walk in the light and have eternal life,

Or we walk in the darkness and experience eternal death.

The old songs says:

Jesus came that we might be safe and secure from all alarm.

Salvation is a matter of life or death.

DON'T LET THE WORLD AND ITS WAYS DECEIVE YOU.

Christ is the light of the world.