



Discussion Guide #1 for 4-23-17 Sermon

INTRODUCTION – Read I John 1:1 – 2:6

The first letter written by the Apostle John seems to have been written to a general audience. Tradition places John in the city of Ephesus at the time of this writing and near the end of his life. His overall encouragement to his readers is that we step into the light as Jesus is in the light, and “walk” as Jesus did when He was here among us. Being light in a dark world, to identify ourselves as Christians doesn’t mean joining the right church, it means living as Christ taught and lived. [I John 2:6]

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

How many ways can Jesus be compared to light? How has Jesus been light in your life? What things has He illumined in order for you to see your way clear to move forward in life? Was there a time when you felt lost in the dark and Jesus suddenly *turned the lights on* for you?

How often does personal sin come up in your conversations with God? Do you have a sense of freedom and true forgiveness as you confess your sins? In dealing with sin there is a balance to strike between lingering guilt and sloppy inattention. Do you feel you can find that balance?

In what situations do you experience confusion as to the right thing to do? Can you describe a breakthrough time when you suddenly knew the right response in a hard situation – and you did it? Maybe it was a first for you. How did that make you feel? How did you know the right thing to do in that circumstance?

Jesus for President - by Shane Claiborne and Chris Haw

The idea that the church is to be the body of Christ is not just something to read about in theology books and leave for the scholars to pontificate about. We are literally to be the body of Jesus in the world. Christians are to be little Christs – people who put flesh on Jesus in the world today. You are the only Jesus some people will ever see. The promise of the church is this: none of us alone are Christ (that’s blasphemy), but all of us together are Christ to the world . . . pg. 228

How does the challenge of “*becoming a living, breathing Christ*” hit you?

- I find it totally intimidating – almost impossible to get my mind around.
- I like having a challenge that is so meaningful – I’m ready.
- I have assumed that becoming truly like Christ was more for pastors and missionaries, not the rank and file of the church like me.
- I am not sure I understand all the personal implications of this expectation. How do I know if I am matching up to what it means to be truly “like Christ?”

MOVING FORWARD

As you ponder living and walking as Jesus did, what are the personal challenges you are facing that your group can pray with you about at the close of this study? We won’t try and fix each other in these sessions – but we will certainly cheer for and pray for each other.