



The Light of the World

2019 Advent sermon series

By Brian Croyle, 12.1.19

Big Idea: Jesus is the light of the world. He came to show us who God is and how much He loves us.

The story of Jesus' birth finds its power and significance in his life, death, and resurrection. We celebrate the baby in the manger because he was – and is – the God of the universe. And he came to live as a man so that he could make a way for us to spend eternity with him.

“In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is himself God, is near to the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us.”

John 1:1-5, 10-12, 14, 16-18 NLT

The true meaning of “Advent” is Jesus’ Incarnation. Advent doesn’t just mean that Christmas is coming, but that *God came* – into the world, to set us free.

Jesus answers two essential questions at the core of human existence:

- “Who is God? Does He even exist?” Jesus came to bring *Revelation* – to show us who God is.
 - The Light of the World – Jesus *illuminates* who God is.
 - The Word, and the Alpha and Omega – Jesus gives us the *language* to understand and describe God.
- “Does God care?” Jesus came to bring *Reconciliation* – to show us how much God loves us.
 - We’ve all chosen wrong paths – God didn’t wait for us to find our way back, but rather Jesus *came out after us* to bring us home.
 - Just as Jesus’ life did not begin with his birth in the stable, his life didn’t end on the cross – Jesus rose from death so that our sins are both forgiven and defeated.

The birth of Jesus is the event that changed – and continues to change – the world. It answers the two most significant questions of human existence: Is God really out there? Does He care about me? To both of those questions the coming of Jesus to the world provides an unequivocal, emphatic **Yes**.

Who is God? You see him in Jesus.

Does God care? “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son.”

NEXT STEP:

How has the light of Jesus in your life brought about revelation and reconciliation? In other words, how do you understand God better through looking at Jesus? And how has Jesus enabled you to have a relationship with God?

If you haven’t yet entered into that kind of relationship with God, will you do so today?

FOR MY PERSONAL TIME WITH GOD THIS WEEK:

Spend time thinking about how the life of Jesus reflects the love, truth, and grace of God. Consider how you understand God better by seeing how Jesus lived. Think also about how you’ve been brought into a deep and meaningful relationship with God – as your loving Father – because of Jesus’ death and resurrection. Then spend time in prayer thanking God for Jesus and all he has done for you.