**“I Am the Light of the World”**

Going deeper in John 8:12-20

**INTRODUCTION** – The following interaction between Jesus, the crowd, and the Pharisees took place during the Feast of Tabernacles. Part of the celebration would have involved lighting four huge lamps in the temple court area. After lighting these lamps, the priests and the Pharisees would have lit torches and danced with their torches in the temple court. The huge lamps would have been lit each night of the week of the Feast of Tabernacles and would have lit up the temple and its glow would have been seen throughout Jerusalem. This is what happens next.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* 12 Jesus spoke to them once again, “I AM the light of the world. No one who follows me will stumble around in the darkness, but will have the light of the life.” 13 The Pharisees pushed back and said, “All we have is your word and that is not enough for us.” 14 Jesus replied, “Even though I am speaking of myself my testimony is still true because I know where I came from (my heavenly Father) and where I am going. You don’t know where I came from and where I am headed. 15 You judge and decide things by human standards, but I do not make judgements like that. 16 But even if I did, my judgment is true because I decide things based on the Father who sent me and is with me. 17 And this is in accordance with God’s law which says the testimony of two witnesses is true. 18 I AM who testifies for myself and my other witness is the Father who sent me. 19 They asked him, “Where is your father?” Jesus answered, “How is it that you don’t know me or my Father? If you knew me you would also know my Father. 20 He spoke these words while teaching in the area of the temple where the offerings were put. No one seized him though because his time had not yet come.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. This takes place during the Feast of Tabernacles. At night the Temple area would have been lit by four huge lamps to remind the people of how God led them through the wilderness with a pillar of fire. Based on that what is Jesus saying about Himself in verse 12?

2. How would Jesus’ statement about being the light of the world have been perceived by the Israelites?

3. According to God’s law someone’s testimony was not considered valid if they did not have other supporting witnesses. How do the Pharisee’s use this against Jesus?

4. How does Jesus respond to them?

5. Who do the Pharisees think Jesus’ father is? Who is Jesus referring to?

6. What are some of the different purposes of light? How do you need Jesus to be your light today?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Praise the LORD Jesus for being your light and the light of the world.

\*Ask Jesus to shed His light on your path today and show you the way He wants you to go.

\*Ask Jesus to send the Holy Spirit and fill you with the power of light to follow Him today.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

The LORD who has created light will empower you today. He will light your path. Will you follow Him and will your life reflect His light?