

SERMON SERIES: *The True Light Has Come*

SERMON TITLE: *Jesus: The Light That Overcomes Darkness*

SCRIPTURE: John 1:1-13

#1 No one has seen God at any time.

- God is Spirit and is invisible.
 - However, throughout the Old Testament, we do find the invisible God manifesting his presence in various physical forms.
 - This is why the Old Testament could state that some men (Moses, Jacob) met “face to face” with God, meaning they met with God in a personal, intimate way.
 - The Old Testament also made it clear that no one could see God’s face. Does this contradict the last bullet point? No. To “see God’s face” is to see God in a full and complete way, whereas meeting “face to face” with God is an expression that means, as stated above, to meet with God in a personal, intimate way but yet not see God fully and completely.
 - Why couldn’t a person see God fully and completely?
 - Seeing the full weight of God’s glory and goodness would be lethal to any person viewing it (Exodus 33:20) because it would immediately expose all of the darkness in them and it would absolutely crush them.

#2 Jesus made God’s glory both extremely VISIBLE and astonishingly APPROACHABLE.

- Jesus made God’s glory extremely **VISIBLE**.
 - Jesus declares God. Jesus explains God. Jesus makes God known.
 - In Jesus, God’s glory is revealed like never before.
 - Why is Jesus able to make God’s glory so visible?
 - Jesus has always known God the Father in the most intimate relationship possible. From his intimate knowledge of the Father, he is able to make the Father’s glory known.

- Although Jesus is a distinct person from the Father, he shares the Father's being, essence, and character and so to look at Jesus is to see the very same being, essence, and character of God the Father. Colossians 1:15, Colossians 1:19, Colossians 2:9, Hebrews 1:1-3, John 14:9
- Jesus made God's glory astonishingly **APPROACHABLE**.
 - He came as a baby. Is there anything more approachable than a baby?
 - He experienced every form of suffering in order to make us comfortable approaching him with our suffering knowing that he can relate.

#3 Jesus revealed that the glory of God is full of GRACE and TRUTH.

- If God was not full of grace and truth there would not be Christmas.
 - Jesus enabled God to punish sin (truth/justice) without punishing us (grace)!

APPLICATION

1. Behold God's glory in Christ!
2. Bear witness of God's glory in Jesus so that all might believe.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think people struggle to understand the depth of their sinfulness and the depth of God's holiness?
2. Currently, what sin are you struggling in Christ to overcome? Is there any sin crouching at your door that is desiring to have you? In other words, is there any sin that you haven't given into but are being tempted by?
3. Why is Jesus able to make God's glory so visible?
4. How did Jesus make God's glory so approachable?
5. What would it look like for you to take advantage of God's visibility and approachability made available in Christ?
6. In your own words, explain why Christmas would have never happened if God was not full of both grace and truth.

7. God desires to make us like Jesus. He therefore desires that we too are full of grace and truth. In our relationships, most of us have a tendency to lean too heavily on one side of the grace/truth divide instead of simultaneously being full of both.

How about you? Where do you often land? Do you find yourself acting different based on the relationship? Has there been anyone in your life that has calibrated both grace and truth well in their dealings with you?

What about your relationship to yourself? Are you full of grace and truth for yourself? Does how you talk to yourself reveal that you lean on one side or the other?

8. Do you have a regular practice of beholding God's glory in Christ? If not, what are the barriers getting in your way?
9. Do you regularly bear witness of God's glory in Jesus so that all might believe? If not, what roadblocks need to be removed?