

SEEING IN THE DARK

A personal paraphrase of John 1:1-18

Before there was anything else, there was the Word. I guess you could say that in the beginning God was talking to himself. And what he said is who he is. This Word created everything. He spoke, and it came into existence. In fact, there is nothing in the entire universe that he didn't create.

Wherever this Word went, there was life. And wherever there was life, there was light. Through this life-giving light people could see what before had been shrouded in darkness. I'm telling you that all the darkness in the universe cannot extinguish a candle that has been lit with the light of God.

Recently, God sent someone to us named John the Baptizer. No, he wasn't the light. But he pointed us to the light so that we could put our trust in that light that comes from God. Yes, the reason John came was so that everybody in the world could receive light and life from the one who was about to come. And now he's here! Yes, the one John was talking about is among us. Now, all men everywhere have the opportunity to see in the dark because light has come into our world. But will they want to see?

Although he made the world and was right here among us, most people didn't know who he was. Even among his own Jewish people, who should have recognized him, he was rejected. But a few people realized who he was and welcomed him as the self-expression of God. When they put their trust in him, God made them his very own children! But, they weren't born the way babies usually are. The new life these people have is not of human origin. They are conceived by God and born through his Spirit. Their life has a divine dimension.

What I'm trying to say is this Word has become one of us. He "enfleshed" himself, you might say. He put on human skin and moved down the street. And some of us have gotten to know him! We saw him with our own eyes. We talked with him. We touched the Word of God! You may be wondering what he looked like. Well, let me just say that he looked like his Father. He was a crazy combination of grace and truth. I don't mean that he was part grace and part truth. No. He was 100% grace and 100% truth. Let me tell you, that's glorious!

This is who John was talking about when he said, "That's him! He's the one! Though I got here before he did, he got here way before I did. I'm just a voice in the desert. But he is the Word! So listen to all that he has to say."

Here's the deal. When Moses came into our world he brought the law. But now Jesus has come and he has brought us grace and truth. I know that it's impossible to see God. But I'm telling you that Jesus has shown us the very face of God.