

A Powerful Light
(February 2, 2021 - Upper Room)
...Yes, I know, its Tuesday's reading...

Read:

John 12:44-50 (NIV)

⁴⁴ Then Jesus cried out, "Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. ⁴⁵ The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me. ⁴⁶ I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness. ⁴⁷ "If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge that person. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. ⁴⁸ There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day. ⁴⁹ For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken. ⁵⁰ I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.

John 12:44-50 (MSG)

⁴⁴⁻⁴⁶ Jesus summed it all up when he cried out, "Whoever believes in me, believes not just in me but in the One who sent me. Whoever looks at me is looking, in fact, at the One who sent me. I am Light that has come into the world so that all who believe in me won't have to stay any longer in the dark.

⁴⁷⁻⁵⁰ "If anyone hears what I am saying and doesn't take it seriously, I don't reject him. I didn't come to reject the world; I came to save the

world. But you need to know that whoever puts me off, refusing to take in what I'm saying, is willfully choosing rejection. The Word, the Word-made-flesh that I have spoken and that I am, *that* Word and no other is the last word. I'm not making any of this up on my own. The Father who sent me gave me orders, told me what to say and how to say it. And I know exactly what his command produces: real and eternal life. That's all I have to say. What the Father told me, I tell you."

**Read the February 2nd installment in the Upper Room
Lesson background:
based on the above scripture**

Sources: www.bibleref.com www.cornerstonebaptistchurch.org

- John 12:44-50 is the last public statement Jesus makes prior to His crucifixion. He is making a sincere "plea" to the people
- Jesus summarizes His purpose and states that He alone provides the means of salvation
- From this point forward, Jesus will focus His efforts on preparing the disciples for what comes next. Those lessons leading up to His arrest and crucifixion, make up the bulk of the next few chapters of the Gospel of John.
- Related scriptures: Hebrews 1:3 refers to Christ as the "exact imprint" of God, an idea Jesus will mention later in His teaching to the disciples in (John 14:9-10)
- John 3:36 says that those who reject the Son are rejecting God.
- Colossians 1:15 likewise says that Jesus is the visible form of the Father.

Daily application from this lesson:

- We can be light to others by sharing the light of Jesus within us
- Sometimes being the light of Christ means to be the one to carry the torch for a Christ-based cause
- Being the light of Christ may mean I try to give of my self in a new way to a situation or a relationship
- To be the light means to offer HOPE, ENCOURAGEMENT, KINDNESS and COMPASSION
- It's okay to give yourself grace for those times when you feel your light for Christ is not shining as brightly as you wish it would. Even Christ would draw away from the crowds and His disciples to pray and recharge.

Reflection:

1. What does being light mean to you?
2. How can viewing things from another perspective help us be a light for Christ?
3. Do you ever feel “empathy fatigue”? How do you handle the times when you feel the light of Christ is not shining through you?

Thought for the week:

I have the ability to be the vessel of LIGHT for others each day.