**I AM GOD: I Am the Light of The World (John 9:1-15)**

***Pr Datuk Kee Sue Sing***

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. His neighbours and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” Some claimed that he was. Others said, “No, he only looks like him.” But he himself insisted, “I am the man.” “How then were your eyes opened?” they asked. He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.” “Where is this man?” they asked him. “I don’t know,” he said. They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.” (John 9:1-15)

# Introduction

Robert Louise Stevenson, who wrote the famous story the *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, was just 12 years of age when he looked out a window one night and saw a lamp lighter lighting one street lamp after another in the dark. In a statement of childish wonder, he described what he saw as seeing a man punching holes in the dark. This summed up what Jesus came to do, to be the light of the world and punch holes in the darkness.

**![C:\Users\TayP\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\KCMPC15J\light-bulb-and-a-star-15838-large[1].png]()BIG IDEA:** Step into the Light, and see what you should be seeing!

# The Revelation

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12)

In making this claim, Jesus reveals much:

## About Himself (what He has to offer)

During the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot) there was a great ceremony called the "Illumination of the Temple," which involved the ritual lighting of four golden oil-fed lamps in the Court of Women. These lamps were huge menorahs / candelabras (seventy-five feet high) lighted in the Temple at night to remind the people of the pillar of fire that had guided Israel in their wilderness journey. All night long the light shone their brilliance; it is said, illuminating the entire city. This light in the temple is very temporary. It will flicker and extinguish after seven nights. However, Jesus proclaimed to be the light of the world which will shine forever. We do not have to stumble around in the dark. We can count on Jesus to light the way for us and lead us to safety.

## Image result for blindnessAbout the world around us (the lives we live)

The world is filled with much darkness.

The realities:

* Seen in the news
* Viewed in the media
* Experienced in life
* Revealed in God’s Word

Helen Keller, who was both deaf and blind, was once told, “What a pity, you have no sight.” To which she replied, “The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision.”

It is one thing for a person to proclaim that he is the light of the world. It is another thing altogether to demonstrate that power. In healing the blind man, Jesus was lending credibility to what He claimed to be.

# The Rejection

## The blindness of theological defectiveness

His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. (John 9:2-3)

The disciples suffer from the blindness of theological defectiveness. It is sad to see many reject the light. We are quick to make judgments. We wonder why people suffer from infirmity or a crippling defect, thinking that it is their sin that caused it. **God does not inflict us with health problems because of our sins; rather these are opportunities for God to be made manifest.**

## The blindness of denial

His neighbours and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” Some claimed that he was. Others said, “No, he only looks like him.” But he himself insisted, “I am the man.” (John 9:8-9)

The neighbours are blinded with the blindness of denial. One can look the truth in the face and still deny it. The neighbours could be rejoicing with the man, but they demanded an explanation for the miracle that has happened. **Cease using denial as a way of ignoring what is real.**

## The blindness of pride and arrogance

Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others asked, “How can a sinner perform such signs?” So they were divided. (John 9:16)

The Pharisees suffered from the blindness of pride and arrogance. They focused on the where and when the miracle occurred rather than rejoicing and praising God for it. They were so ‘rule-based’ that they cared more about Jesus breaking the rule of the Sabbath rather than the healing itself. **When we are bound by rules, we are kept in the dark. When we live by grace, we walk in the light.**

## The blindness of selfishness

But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don’t know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. That was why his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” (John 9:21-23)

The parents suffer from the blindness of selfishness. They answered the way they did because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. They were afraid of losing their seats in the synagogue. They had the opportunity to stand with their son and rejoice with him. However, they refuse to accept the truth because of their fear. **Have the courage to support people who stand up for what they believe.**

*A Christian with a glowing testimony is worth a library full of arguments.*

Some will condemn the light, some will confess the light.

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” (John 9:35)

Jesus took the initiative to look for the man. In love and grace, Jesus is still seeking and looking for those who have yet to know His love and His grace.

# Image result for Jesus healing the blind manThe Reception

## The greater sight

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.” (John 9:35-37)

## Even greater than the healing of the man’s physical sight was the miracle of spiritual insight. The man’s spiritual eyes were opened to the light of the truth, and he gave himself completely to Jesus.

## A greater blindness

 Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.” Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, “What? Are we blind too?” Jesus said, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains. (John 9:39-41)

A greater blindness was that of spiritual blindness. Even if you were blind, but you were honest about your blindness, you still have hope for sight. However, if you think you can see, that you know everything and can figure out everything by yourself, you will be left in the darkness.

**“It is not our littleness that hinders Christ but our bigness. It is not our weakness that hinders Christ but our strength. It is not our darkness that hinders Christ; it is our supposed light that holds back his hand.” – Charles Spurgeon**

*Beware of being stuck in your comfortable framework.*

# Conclusion

*“You are the light of the world!”*

What if every lightbulb wanted only to be displayed in the light shop? What if every Christian wants only to be displayed in the church? They will lose their influence and the opportunity to make an impact.

Stop whining, complaining or murmuring about where God has placed you. Start shining! Shine in your workplace, your school, your colleges and universities, your social circle, your home, and your neighbourhood!

Be the greatest illuminators.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

Sermon summary contributed by Anthea Tan

Prayer items by Kwan Zhen Li





SERMON: I Am the Light of the World

**Pray:**

* Thank God that Jesus Christ came to bring light into the spiritual darkness the world is in.
* We will walk with Jesus in safety through life and place our trust in Him alone even during difficult times.
* The Holy Spirit will convict us of sin, grant us humility and give us understanding of spiritual matters.
* We will be bold to make a stand and testify for Christ to bring light to our communities.
* People will respond to the gospel and leave the darkness by following Christ.

***But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (1 Peter 2:9)***

**MINISTRIES & EVENTS: Community Excel Services**

***Community Excel Services (CES) aims to build the nation through building people. They are involved in street ministry, drug rehabilitation, community services and development, advocacy and education.***

**Pray:**

* Anointing and blessings upon CES staff and volunteers who serve the community faithfully.
* People in the community will see Christ and experience God’s love through the work done by CES.
* Physical and spiritual needs will be met through this ministry.
* Lives will be changed for the better through the work of CES among the poor and downtrodden.
* Truth and justice will be upheld in the land.
* More people will step up to serve in the CES ministry.

***He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)***

MALAYSIA MY NATION: 2016 Re-delineation Exercise

***The Election Commission is redrawing constituency boundaries as a re-delineation exercise.***

**Pray:**

* Fair and proportionate drawing of boundaries for constituencies.
* Proposals and feedback from the public will be taken into consideration.
* Processes will be done legitimately and cleanly.
* People, especially the young generation, will not be apathetic towards the election process and voting.
* God-fearing and capable leaders will be elected to govern the country.
* We will not grow weary in praying for our land.

***I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. (1 Timothy 2:1-2)***

* **A TRANSFORMED WORLD: Typhoon Chaba.**

***Typhoon Chaba caused a mini-tsunami in South Korea and resulted in at least 7 deaths. The affected places included Ulsan, Busan and South Gyeongsang province (Yeongnam region), South Jeolla (Honam region) and Jeju. Properties were damaged, ports and industries affected, and power supply disrupted due to the typhoon.***

**Pray:**

* Relief efforts to be carried out smoothly so that aid will be distributed to the needy.
* Peace for affected families, especially those who lost their loved ones.
* People will be able to rebuild their lives in the aftermath of the storm.
* People to turn to God in their time of need.
* Christians will extend help, love and generosity to the residents affected.

***My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. (Psalm 121:2)***