



Dig Deeper Study Guide

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church - December 11, 2011

Sermon

*Christmas Cantata
2011*

Things I want to remember
about this cantata...

Monday 12/12/11
Genesis 1:1-3

God created the light. As a matter of fact, in the story of Creation, light was the first thing God created. Without light we cannot see. Have you ever been in a cavern where natural light no longer penetrates? This is darkness; real darkness. God created the light to overcome the darkness and to give us hope even in a dark world. No matter our situation, God's light is present to show us the way out of the darkness and into the light. Yes, God created light and it was good!

Tuesday 12/13/11
Matthew 5:14-16

"You are the light of the world." Yes, you! God created you with specific and unique gifts. There is only one you. No one else in all the world is exactly like you. You are special. And you are God's light! The problem is that we tend to not think about ourself in good terms and we hide our light and our talents. We think there is nothing special about ourselves and so we don't share our light. But Jesus says "let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." Let your light shine today!

Wednesday 12/14/11
1 John 1:5-10

"God is light and in him there is no darkness at all." The juxtaposition of darkness and light is stark and vivid. There is no comparison. Night is dark and day is light and God is light. So walk in the light of God. The promises of God are realized when we walk in the way of truth and light. Sin cannot even come close to overcoming this light. So walk in the light of God. It is easy to be seduced and overcome by sin. Choose the light of God instead!



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Things to do this week in response to the sermon...

What kinds of light do you see around you?

Are you walking in darkness these days?

How can you let your light shine for others?

Thursday 12/15/11
John 1:1-13

This passage in the first chapter of John's gospel sounds a lot like the story of Creation in Genesis. "In the beginning was the Word..." John the Baptist was sent to testify to the light--to prepare the way of the Lord. The true light was Jesus and his light enlightens everyone who believes in him. Some will accept this and some will reject it. But to all who believe in the true light he gives power to become children of God. Do you feel this power in your life today?

Friday 12/16/11
Acts 9:1-19

Blinded by the light--this was the story of the Apostle Paul. On his way to Damascus, Paul was blinded by a great light. In fact, the light was so bright and powerful it struck Paul blind! Yep, he was blinded by the light. Paul was confronted with his sin by that light and it changed his life forever. This is truly a story of repentance and new birth. Paul was born again! And all because of this great light! Do you feel the power of God's light in your life?

Saturday 12/17/11
John 8:12-20

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." The Pharisees did not believe Jesus. They assumed he was blowing his own trumpet. We have a choice to make, too. Whom do you believe Jesus to be from what these words say? Are you a child of this light? We make many choices in life. Sometimes we make good choices and sometimes we do not. Whatever choices you make, be sure to follow the light of Jesus. Your life will be changed forever and you will be a beacon to others!