

SEEING THE GLORY

(John 1:1-18)

Intro: Major league umpire made a very close but controversial call.

-One side.

#Understandably upset.

#Argued the call.

#Some even heckled the umpire.

*"Hey, ump."

*"You need to get your eyes examined."

-Umpire.

#Not about to take any guff from anybody.

#Hollered right back.

*"There's nothing wrong with my eyes."

*"Why, on a clear day I can see the sun."

+ "And that's 93 million miles away."

I. Can We See The Son, The Light Of The World?

A. On A Clear Day We Can.

1. We are near the end of the season of Christmas.

a. This is the 11th day of Christmas.

b. We have celebrated again the birth of our savior.

-Baby born in a manger.

-Word became flesh.

#Lived among us.

*John 1:14

#Pitched his tent among us.

2. Jesus is the light of the world.

a. John 3:19-21.

b. John 8:12.

c. John 9:5.

d. John 12:46.

3. Light shines in the darkness.

a. Darkness has not overcome it.

-John 1:5.

b. In John's Gospel.

-Jesus' birth is glorious.

#"We have seen his glory."

*"Glory as of a father's only son."

+ "Full of grace and truth." (John 1:14).

#As it was in Matthew's Gospel.

*Where a star marked the occasion of his birth.

+Matthew 2: 1-12.

#As it was in Luke's Gospel.

*Where the glory of the Lord shone upon the shepherds.

+Luke 2: 9.

-Jesus' miracles are glorious.

#Wedding at Cana.

*Jesus turned water into wine.

*"Jesus did this, the first of his signs,"

*"In Cana of Galilee,"

*"And revealed his glory;"

*"And his disciples believed in him."

+John 2: 11.

-Even Jesus' death and resurrection are glorious.

#That Jesus' resurrection is glorious.

*Should be no surprise.

#But Jesus' death is also called glorious.

*When Jesus is ready to face his death.

*He says:

+ "Father, the hour has come."

+ "Glorify your Son."

=John 17: 1.

+Also:

=John 12: 21-28.

=John 13: 31-32.

#"Light shines in the darkness,"

*"And the darkness did not overcome it."

*John 1: 5.

*Not even the darkness of death.

*Crucifixion.

*Burial.

4. So John proclaims:

a. Already at the beginning of his Gospel.

b. "We have seen his glory."

-John 1: 14.

#It is there for all the world to see.

#We can see it.

*On a clear day.

- B. But Some Days Are Not So Clear.
1. Jesus came into the world as the light of the world.
 - a. "But the world did not know him."
-John 1:10.
 - b. "His own people did not receive him."
-John 1:11.
 2. Why?
 - a. One of my favorite Christmas carols.
 - Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.
 - #I've thought it would be a good hymn to sing at my funeral.
 - *Even if it's July.
 - Verse 3 is especially meaningful for me.
 - #Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
 - Is that the problem?
 - #In becoming human.
 - *Did Jesus lay his glory by?
+Give it up?
+Lay it aside?
 - #Not in John's Gospel.
 - *"The Word became flesh and lived among us,
And we have seen his glory,
The glory as of a father's only son,
Full of grace and truth."
+John 1:14.
 - =So why don't we always see it?
 - b. It can get awfully dark this time of year.
 - Not just the shortened daylight hours.
 - #For those of us who live in the northern hemisphere.
 - But the darkness in our hearts.
 - #My mom died right before Christmas in 1987.
 - *December 21.
 - #We had her funeral on Christmas Eve Day.
 - *December 24.
 - #One of the people at my mom's funeral.
 - *Woman whose husband had been:
 - +My elementary school principal.
 - +One of my elementary school teachers.
 - *Her husband had died.
 - +Three months before my mom.

- *I asked her how she was doing.
- +She said:
 - =“The holidays are so hard.”
- The light shines in the darkness.
- #And sometimes we may still feel like we’re in the dark.
 - *Sickness.
 - *Bills.
 - *Debt.
 - *Loss.
 - *Death.
 - *Grief.
- #It can get awfully dark this time of year.
 - *So dark we may not see the glory of the Son.
- c. Sometimes light can be blinding rather than illuminating.
 - Last year.
 - #Cathy Newsome and her friend Bob.
 - *Gave us tickets to the Peter Mayer Christmas concert.
 - +At Kirk of the Hills.
 - *Peter Mayer.
 - +From St. Louis.
 - +Son of former Lutheran missionaries to India.
 - +Guitarist in Jimmy Buffet’s band.
 - *During December.
 - +Peter puts together his own band.
 - +Plays Christmas concerts around the country.
 - =With music he has written.
 - #I had pneumonia.
 - *I couldn’t go to the concert.
 - *So we gave our tickets to Jim and Ellen Harris.
 - This year.
 - #Peter Mayer was again at Kirk of the Hills.
 - *Jim and Ellen.
 - +Went again.
 - +Got a ticket for me.
 - #I went.
 - *Enjoyed the music.
 - *One thing I didn’t enjoy.
 - +Spot light on the stage.
 - =It swiveled.
 - =Sometimes it illuminated the stage.
 - =Sometimes it was shining in my eyes.
 - Blinding me.
 - I had to look away.
 - #Or close my eyes.

- God's light.
 - #Not only illuminates the glory of the Lord.
 - #It shines on us.
 - *Revealing our sin.
 - +Calls we miss.
 - =We don't like to look.
 - =We want to close our eyes.
- #John 3:19.
 - *"This is the judgment,
That the light came into the world,
And people loved the darkness rather than the light
Because their deeds were evil."

3. It is for sinful people like us.
 - a. Light shines in the darkness.
 - b. God gives grace upon grace.
 - Light.
 - #Life.
 - Love.
 - #Forgiveness.
 - Comfort.
 - #Joy.
 - Healing.
 - #Hope.
 - Born that we no more may die.
Born to raise each child of earth.
Born to give us second birth.

II. Can We Reflect The Glory Of The Son?

- A. Not In The Dark.
 1. My bicycle has several reflectors.
 - a. Front.
 - b. Back.
 - c. Each Wheel.
 - d. Front and back of each pedal.
 2. I keep my bike in the garage.
 - a. Garage has no windows.
 - b. If I go in my garage at night.
 - Turn off all the lights.
 - Look at my bike.
 - c. What do I see?
 - Nothing.
 - There is no light in those reflectors.

- d. It's only if I take my bike out near the street.
 - Where it might catch the light.
 - #From a streetlight.
 - #From a car's headlights.
 - You can see those reflectors.
- 3. Jesus is the Word.
 - a. "In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God."
-John 1:1.
 - b. "And the Word became flesh.
and lived among us."
-John 1:14.
 - c. Unless:
 - Our ears.
 - #Where the Word can be heard.
 - Our eyes.
 - #Where the Word can be seen.
 - d. We might as well be.
 - In the garage.
 - At night.
 - With the lights turned out.
 - #Neither seeing.
 - #Nor being seen.
- 4. We can all be in the Word.
 - a. Today we began a new series in our adult Bible class.
 - Rediscovering the Book of Faith.
 - b. Next week our Daytime 5x5 group will meet.
 - For the first time in 2009.
 - Wednesday.
 - January 14.
 - 10:00 A.M.
 - In the adult classroom
 - *We'll pick our topic.
 - *We'll negotiate our schedule for the next five months.
 - c. Our other 5x5 groups should be back in session soon.
 - We'll publicize the details when we have them.
 - d. There are devotional materials:
 - On the table in the narthex.
 - Online.
 - e. If nothing else.
 - You can:
 - #Pick up your Bible every day.
 - #Read it.

B. When We Are In The Word And The Word Is In Us, We Can Reflect The Glory Of The Lord.

1. Through the Word.
 - a. God created the world.
 - b. But the world.
 - Didn't know the Word.
 - Didn't accept the Word.
2. But to those:
 - a. Who received him.
 - b. Who believed in his name.
 - He gave power to become children of God.
3. When I was growing up.
 - a. There were certain expectations.
 - About how we were to behave.
 - b. We were preacher's kids.
 - Expectations came:
 - #Not just from my parents.
 - #But from the rest of the congregation.
 - If we misbehaved.
 - #That reflected badly:
 - *On my parents.
 - +Especially my dad, the pastor.
 - *On the church.
4. As children of God there are certain expectations placed on us.
 - a. Not just our behavior.
 - b. But how we reflect the glory of the Lord.
 - As the father's only Son.
 - #One of Jesus' primary responsibilities:
 - *Make the Father known.
 - *Reflect the light of God.
 - +Full of grace and truth.
 - +Grace upon grace.
 - As children of God.
 - #One of our primary responsibilities.
 - *Make God known.
 - *Reflect the light of God.
 - +Full of grace and truth.
 - +Grace upon grace.

Concl: In begins in the waters of Holy Baptism.
It continues here.

-In bread and wine.

#Full of grace and truth.

#Grace upon grace.

-So that on a clear day or in the darkest night.

#You can see the Son.

#World can see the Son through you.

