

Light in Darkness John 1:1-14

Have you ever heard of the term “eureka moment”. It was the word used by the Greek scientist Archimedes who was trying to work out the volume of irregular shaped items. It completely fixed him until one day he was in the bath and saw the water rise as he got in. Suddenly the lights went on and he realised that the volume of water displaced by his body was the same as the volume of his body – and it was easy to measure the volume of water. Apparently he ran down the street afterwards shouting “eureka!” I have found it. So excited was he that he forgot to put his clothes back on!

Often you see on cartoons that the artist draws a light bulb above the head of characters who have eureka moments. Where do they get that idea of switching on the lights from. Actually not Archimedes, but Jesus - *John 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

Actually, the way most people learn really important things is by having eureka moments. It's that sudden realisation of how everything works. It's as if someone has switched a light on.

That is even more so when it comes to spiritual things. The Bible uses the words consistently for people who don't understand spiritual things as walking in darkness. By that I mean that they're in the dark – they don't know and don't understand. Three significant things about walking in darkness are found in the passage I just read.

Did not Understand.

The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. Don't be surprised if people look blankly at you when you talk about your Christian faith. They just can't see it. They never will unless someone turns on the light!

If you don't understand but want to, then ask God to open your mind to the things of God. Jesus said *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

Did not Recognise

10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. One of the most striking things we find in the Gospels is how few people recognised who Jesus was. In Mark's gospel for example Mark makes the point that His family didn't recognise who He was and His disciples didn't until after the resurrection. The Jewish people of that time certainly didn't.

The very Son of God walked and talked amongst them. He taught profound things, He did amazing miracles. And they just did not understand who Jesus was even when He was in front of their eyes. Now that's spiritual blindness!

One of the things most people find when they trust Jesus and start to follow Him is how much of God they have seen in their life to bring them to that point of faith – but they never recognised God in it. I've found that one of the most important things to ask for as a Christian that the Holy Spirit will keep my eyes open to recognising Jesus in my life, which gives me encouragement when I'm down, comfort when I'm sick, His presence when I'm lonely, assurance when I feel down or full of doubt.

Did not Receive

He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

Because people didn't recognise who Jesus was, they didn't receive Him. The saddest thing in this world are those who go through the whole of life and the whole of eternity, never understanding and never recognising so they never receive. I believe God gives each man and woman every opportunity to understand, to recognise and receive in their lifetime. The opportunity is there but some never receive. The opportunity is for you tonight if you have understood and recognised who Jesus is but never received Him to do so this evening.