

His Light For Our Darkest Days - Part 1

The Wise Pursue The Light

That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified. **Luke 2:8-9 (NLT)**

Jesus said, "I have come as a light to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in me will no longer wander in darkness." **John 12:46 (LB)**

Jesus shouted to the crowds, "If you trust me, you are trusting not only me, but also God who sent me. For when you see me, you are seeing the one who sent me. I have come as a light to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in me will no longer remain in the dark." **John 12:44-46 (NLT)**

Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life." **John 8:12 (NLT)**

Darkest Days Can Lead To:

- **A Sense of Disillusionment - Job 30:26 (NLT)** *So I looked for good, but evil came instead. I waited for the light, but darkness fell.*
- **Feelings of Helplessness - Psalm 109:22 (NCV)** *I am poor and helpless and very sad.*
- **Lack of Direction - John 12:35b (GW)** *Those who walk in the dark don't know where they're going.*
- **Thoughts of Depression - Lamentations 3:19-20 (GW)** *Remember my suffering and my aimless wandering, the wormwood and poison. My soul continues to remember these things and is so discouraged.*
- **Loss of Perspective - Psalm 88:18 (LB)** *Lover, friend, acquaintance - all are gone. There is only darkness everywhere.*

God's Remedy For My Darkest Days: Jesus!

The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it. **John 1:4-5 (NLT)**

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him." **Matthew 2:1-2 (NLT)**

What To Do When We Face Darkest Days:

- **Follow the light despite the difficulties.**

After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. **Matthew 2:9-10 (ESV)**

- **Trust that God will speak a language we understand.**

"Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him." **Matthew 2:2 (NLT)**

In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it. **John 1:1-5 (NLT)**

We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is the Word of life. This one who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen him. And now we testify and proclaim to you that he is the one who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then he was revealed to us. We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. **1 John 1:1-3 (NLT)**

"The eternal invaded the temporal and became part of human history, we saw it, we heard it, we handled it and we realized that Jesus was the very Word of life and light! We can still hear His voice ringing in our ears and we grasped that He is our Savior!" **1 John 1:1-3 (PH Paraphrase)**

- **Because of Christmas we don't have to stay in the dark.**

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he left Judea and returned to Galilee. He went first to Nazareth, then left there and moved to Capernaum, beside the Sea of Galilee, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. This fulfilled what God said through the prophet Isaiah: "In the land of Zebulun and of Naphtali, beside the sea, beyond the Jordan River, in Galilee where so many Gentiles live, the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light. And for those who lived in the land where death casts its shadow, a light has shined." From then on

***Jesus began to preach, "Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near."
Matthew 4:12-17 (NLT)***

*We are writing these things so that you may fully share our joy. This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: **God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all.** So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.*

1 John 1:4-7 (NLT)