



I Am the Light of the World

This morning, I've been reflecting on light. As I sit here, I'm looking at a lamp—a beautiful gift from one of our members—its glow steady and warm. I hold in my hands an oil lamp, a type that was widely used in ancient times, from the Canaanite to the Byzantine periods, between 2500 BC and 300 AD. It reminds me of Jesus' powerful words: "I am the light of the world."

What did Jesus mean when he said this? I try to place myself in that moment, hearing his voice, sensing the weight of his words. Was he simply declaring who he was? Or was he also inviting us into this identity? "I am the light of the world... You are the light of the world."

If we are called to be the light, then the world itself is meant to be illuminated. Darkness should not dominate but be dispelled. Yet, darkness isn't merely an opposing force—it is the absence of light. The Christian faith does not exist to battle darkness like a mere opponent but to bring light into it.

When we look at the universe, we see that darkness is the most dominant state. Light is rare, and yet, where it exists, it has profound purpose—to illuminate, to guide, to bring warmth and clarity. Our lives, too, are part of this vast universe. We may feel surrounded by darkness at times, but God has given us light. And this light—our lives, our kindness, our warmth—is not an abstract or philosophical concept. It is tangible. It is our purpose.

So, perhaps to be the light of the world is to wake up each day with a renewed commitment: to be kinder to ourselves and others, to be less controlled by anger, to be more thoughtful, to live a life of prayer, and to center our lives on others, as Christ did.

If we can strive toward that, then perhaps we will truly understand what Jesus meant when he said: "I am the light of the world."

Pastor Jeong