



hope

Who Came? - Our Light of Truth

John 1:4-5

Helen Keller

- Born June 27, 1880, Tuscumbia, Alabama—died June 1, 1968, Westport, Connecticut
- At age 19 months she was left blind and deaf from an illness
- At age 6 she was examined by Alexander Graham Bell
- As a result, he sent to her a 20-year-old teacher, Anne Sullivan (Macy) from the Perkins Institution for the Blind in Boston, which Bell's son-in-law directed

Helen Keller

- Within months Keller had learned to feel objects and associate them with words spelled out by finger signals on her palm, to read sentences by feeling raised words on cardboard, and to make her own sentences by arranging words in a frame
- During 1888–90 she began a slow process of learning to speak under Sarah Fuller of the Horace Mann School for the Deaf, also in Boston

Helen Keller

- She also learned to lip-read by placing her fingers on the lips and throat of the speaker while the words were simultaneously spelled out for her
- She graduated college cum laude in 1904
- And you think your problems are irreversible and your life is without hope
- Helen Keller had an understanding of God before she had the gift of language when in isolation, completely in the dark, literally and figuratively

Helen Keller

- Helen was mentored by an Episcopal Priest, Phillips Brooks. Helen told him that she had always had an awareness of God even before she had any way of communicating with the outside world. She sensed His presence in utter darkness, and never felt completely alone. God's love for her was evident every step of the way, and when she finally reached a way to understand who God was, she commented that He had been there all along. When God was explained to Helen, she exclaimed, "Oh, that's His name! I didn't know He had a name."

Helen Keller

- God was light in the darkness and isolation of Helen Keller's life, and He has promised to be in your darkness and isolation as well giving light with His presence

Helen Keller

- Anna Nash, “It was impressed upon me that Helen Keller had the benefit of experiencing God’s presence without the influence of typical earthly distractions. Helen felt the pure love of God in an unhindered, unadulterated frame of reference. I am envious because my view of God is blended with my view of the world around me.”

Helen Keller

- Anna Nash, “It was impressed upon me that Helen Keller had the benefit of experiencing God’s presence without the influence of typical earthly distractions. Helen felt the pure love of God in an unhindered, unadulterated frame of reference. I am envious because my view of God is blended with my view of the world around me.”

Scripture

- **John 1:4-5 NIV**, “4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The *(His)* light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not *(nor ever will)* overcome it.”

We have been answering the question this Christmas season, “Who came?”

- **John 1:14 NLT**, The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory (*the light within Him*), the glory (*light*) of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- John said, “We have seen the light of His grace and truth coming from Him.”
- Last week we saw He is our Load Bearer

We have been answering the question this Christmas season, “Who came?”

- Darkness is not so much a thing but an event where light is removed leaving behind darkness
- Its purpose is to hide things like hope, peace, joy, security, the presence of God...all that is good and perfect God created for us
- They are all still there but obscured from our fleshly eyes by the darkness

We have been answering the question this Christmas season, “Who came?”

- We blend God’s truth with our fleshly view of life and God seems hidden at times
- **Isaiah 9:1-2 NLT**, The land of Zebulun and Naphtali will be humbled, but there will be a time in the future when Galilee of the Gentiles, which lies along the road that runs between the Jordan and the sea, will be filled with glory. 2 The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine.

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- **Matthew 4:12-16 NLT** 12 When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he left Judea and returned to Galilee. 13 He went first to Nazareth, then left there and moved to Capernaum, beside the Sea of Galilee, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali.

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- **Matthew 4:12-16 NLT** 14 This fulfilled what God said through the prophet Isaiah: 15 “In the land of Zebulun and of Naphtali, beside the sea, beyond the Jordan River, in Galilee where so many Gentiles live, 16 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.”

The first recorded light that Jesus shown to the world was an invitation to return to the light

- **Matthew 4:17 NLT**, From then on Jesus began to preach, “Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near (*has come or is coming soon*).”
- “In Him was life and light” and His first word to mankind is “bring your isolation and darkness into the light of the Kingdom of God” or return to the light
- We look at the word Repent as if it is just a “salvation” word which it is, but it is mostly a “come back” word

The first recorded light that Jesus shown to the world was an invitation to return to the light

- You were created to live in the light and joy and acceptance found only in the Kingdom of God
- Because we have looked for that somewhere else, we find ourselves living in the world of darkness and brokenness while responding to it on our own
- We try and fit into this world of darkness that is dominated by evil

The first recorded light that Jesus shown to the world was an invitation to return to the light

- We make excuses for why we keep living in the land of isolation and darkness
- I think the favorite words Jesus spoke was, “Come to me” or possibly, “Come into the Kingdom of God”, followed by, “Do not fear”
- He provided the path for our way back and it leads through the cross He bore for your sin debt, rebellion

The first recorded light that Jesus shown to the world was an invitation to return to the light

- In Genesis 3 we find Adam and Eve banished from the Garden of Eden that represents the presence of God, with a Cherubim with a flaming sword guarding the way back
- When Jesus cried, “It is finished!” on the cross, the way back, lost in Genesis, was opened again to all who would receive Jesus as their Lord and King

Jesus' answer for our isolation and darkness is for us to step into His light by coming into the Kingdom of God and living under His light provided

- **Vs. 5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not (*nor ever will*) overcome it.
 - Let His light, His truth shine in your darkness and isolation and that light is found only in the Kingdom of God

Jesus' answer for our isolation and darkness is for us to step into His light by coming into the Kingdom of God and living under His light provided

- The Kingdom of God is the kingdom where Jesus Christ is King, Master, Lord
 - It is the king that sets the tone of the kingdom
 - Determines and wills how it is to operate
 - How people are to live and relate to each other and the outside kingdoms
 - It is the king people either trusted or scorned

Jesus' answer for our isolation and darkness is for us to step into His light by coming into the Kingdom of God and living under His light provided

- Jesus gave us a summary of how we are to live in His kingdom in **Matthew 5:3-10 NLT**
 - **3** Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
 - **4** Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted
 - **5** Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth

Jesus' answer for our isolation and darkness is for us to step into His light by coming into the Kingdom of God and living under His light provided

- Jesus gave us a summary of how we are to live in His kingdom in **Matthew 5:3-10 NLT**
 - **6** Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled
 - **7** Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy
 - **8** Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God

Jesus' answer for our isolation and darkness is for us to step into His light by coming into the Kingdom of God and living under His light provided

- Jesus gave us a summary of how we are to live in His kingdom in **Matthew 5:3-10 NLT**
 - **9** Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God
 - **10** Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

Jesus' answer for our isolation and darkness is for us to step into His light by coming into the Kingdom of God and living under His light provided

- All of these must be lived through faith and trust in the King of God's Kingdom, Jesus Christ
- All of these are contrary or opposite to living in the world of darkness

Jesus' answer for our isolation and darkness is for us to step into His light by coming into the Kingdom of God and living under His light provided

- **John 9:25 NLT**, 25 “I don’t know whether he is a sinner,” the man replied. “But I know this: I was blind, and now I can see!”
 - I once was living in darkness without hope
 - But now I see through the touch of Jesus and my life has been completely changed and I now have hope going forward

Jesus' answer for our isolation and darkness is for us to step into His light by coming into the Kingdom of God and living under His light provided

- It is the same way today
- Let the King touch you and begin to ease the isolation, brokenness, bitterness, and blindness in your life
- Let Him teach you how to see through your isolation, brokenness, bitterness, and blindness all the way to hope and joy and peace
- It always leads through the cross

Jesus' answer for our isolation and darkness is for us to step into His light by coming into the Kingdom of God and living under His light provided

- Let the joy of knowing your King and His ways be your strength
- Keep looking ahead for there is joy unspeakable and glory ahead for those in His Kingdom

Jesus' answer for our isolation and darkness is for us to step into His light by coming into the Kingdom of God and living under His light provided

- **John 16:20-22 NLT**, 20 I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn over what is going to happen to me, but the world will rejoice. You will grieve, but your grief will suddenly turn to wonderful joy. 21 It will be like a woman suffering the pains of labor. When her child is born, her anguish gives way to joy because she has brought a new baby into the world. 22 So you have sorrow now, but I will see you again; then you will rejoice, and no one can rob you of that joy.

Jesus' answer for our isolation and darkness is for us to step into His light by coming into the Kingdom of God and living under His light provided

- There is your answer to your isolation, brokenness, and darkness
- Jesus is alive and active longing to bring healing to your isolation, brokenness, bitterness, and darkness
- When you fully grasp this light/truth – no one can rob you of that great joy and peace

- Helen Keller, “Once I knew only darkness and stillness... my life was without past or future... but a little word from the fingers of another fell into my hand that clutched at emptiness, and my heart leaped to the rapture of living.”



- I get the picture of a calf or colt running out of the barn on a bright sunny day and just rejoicing they can run free in the warmth of the sun, no longer confined to the barn



- Remember the words of Jesus Christ to you in **John 8:36 NLT**, “So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.”



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John 1:4-5