

new

LEADERSHIP

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." (John 8:12)

In the world today we are given so many options.

Many options that look right and give the illusion of truth but underneath is deception and darkness. Our ears have grown accustomed to the voice of the world, a voice that leads and guides, dictates, corrects, teaches and trains. However, when we follow Christ and read His word we begin to realize the voice of the world sounds "off." At first we can't put our finger on it, but it doesn't sit right. As we continue to spend time with the Lord and His people we will begin to tell quickly when the enemy is speaking and not Jesus.

When Jesus came He lead people in a way that was contrary to how the religious leaders and even the secular leaders would govern the people. He came with grace and truth, extending grace and mercy to people but not allowing them to live in a state of deception because He would show them truth in a loving way. In His kindness He would reveal the paths people were on that didn't lead them to life. This made the leaders of that time angry because they were losing the control they had on the people, because their mode of leadership was through the Law and through fear.

Jesus brought light, He exposed darkness even in the places like the church who claimed they were doing God's will but strayed far from God's intended purpose of the church. When we say "yes" to Jesus, we are saying yes to His leadership.

The world is fighting to lead and guide us, it uses fear and manipulation to get our attention. When we lean into Jesus and give Him permission to lead us and guide us, the cares of this world are no longer overwhelming. In fact, when we look at the events of our times and filter them through

the lens of the gospel, we don't allow chaos and conflict to bring division into our hearts and relationships. We are willing to agree to disagree because we know how vital unity is to the health of the Church.

His leadership shows us how to extend love and mercy to those around us and to live our lives with grace and truth. When we find ourselves in seasons that seem confusing and concerning, we can find peace knowing we follow a leader who has His kids in mind, He has a plan that's good and gives us a hope and a future. We can trust Him because He loves us.

PRAYER

FATHER, THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING ME WITH A LEADER WHO IS FOR ME. HELP ME TO FOLLOW HIM WITH EASE, HELP ME KEEP MY ATTENTION FIXED ON HIM. WHEN I FEEL LIKE THE WORLD IS CHAOTIC HELP ME TO SEE YOUR WAYS AND YOUR FINGERPRINT IN THE MIDST OF IT. THANK YOU THAT YOUR PLANS FOR ME ARE GOOD, THAT YOU HAVE CREATED A FUTURE FOR ME THAT IS GOOD, THAT YOUR THOUGHTS TOWARDS ME ARE GOOD. WOULD YOU LEAD AND GUIDE ME THIS YEAR IN ALL THAT I DO. IN JESUS' NAME, AMEN.