

SERMONS IN GLASS
Sermon Series: "Five Strategic Sermons for Today"
John 8: 12 April 8, 2018
The Church of the Covenant

One of the men from one of the companies who looked at our stained glass in order to renovate them, noted that it "looked like the church building was closed and boarded up". I was shocked but if you look at the stained glass from the outside he is right. There's no light shining from those windows; there's no light shining out into the world from our sanctuary. *"I am the light of the world"*, says Jesus (John 8:12) But no light is going to get through those foggy occluded pieces of Lexan plastic to announce the light that shineth in the darkness is Jesus, out into a dark and darkening world. Every one of these stained glass windows is a sermon in glass. There is the Nativity Window announcing the birth of Jesus in the back of the balcony; there are the high clerestory windows lining the sanctuary with the parables and the teaching of Jesus; there are the lower aisle windows that are the life of Christ; there is the resurrection window and above the resurrection window are the miracles of Jesus; there is the Great Women in the Bible window with a sermon in every pane of glass; there is the Good Samaritan Window in the back of the chapel, certainly a sermon in glass; and there is the Rose Window, God's love reaching out to us from its very center, from the very heart of God. Sermons in glass all around us –can they be seen? Can the light shine through them?

I'm going to take a moment to point out a couple of things for you today. I want to come over to the Miracles of Jesus window and point out all the caulking that is coming out and falling to the ground and the loose coming. I want to point out the water damage. I want to show you the Prodigal Son Window of the parable windows of Jesus; see the damage in the delicate fretwork. Now a lower window where the stained glass is literally peeling away from its coming. Now a window where the glass is broken and out; that isn't white glass that's sky. If you want to see what's happening to the windows go into the chapel and look at the caulking falling out of the big window behind the communion table; the Good Samaritan Window is disintegrating. Look at the first archangel window on the side closest to the chancel area; see the bulge going out and the bulge going in. The weight of the glass above is pushing the glass downward because the structure of the window needs help. If this piques your curiosity, please come to the luncheon at 12:15 today. Cyndi Barney can stretch it no matter whether you signed up for the luncheon or not. Come anyway. I remember a dinner many years ago when she cut the pork roast so thin that you could see through it. It was so thin it was like glass! You are welcome to come today.

Now for my spiritual point in my sermon. These stained glass windows are like our lives. Jesus is always shining the light. The light of God never lessens; it is constant and expanding and forever. But our lives can become foggy and occluded by our anger and our sin and our lack of forgiveness, our ego and our unresolved issues. And like a piece of stained glass, its covering can hide the light; the dirt that needs to be removed from our heart can obscure the light; the unresolved brokenness in our soul can inhibit the light of God from breaking through and shining through us and lighting the world in Jesus' name. We are the prisms of the light of

Jesus. We are the stained glass windows of God. Can the light shine through us and into the lives of others? Or are there things we need to clean up? Are there unresolved issues hanging around even from our childhood that need to be taken down like occluded Lexan? Is there unresolved lack of forgiveness like dirt obscuring the light? Is there even broken glass, our internal brokenness obscuring the light of Christ? Does our own ego and our need to be right get in the way of the light of Christ and hide it under a bushel? Our job isn't so much to be the light. Our job is to let the light shine through us. Our job is to get rid of the junk in our own lives that obscures the light. It's the same project as renovating these windows...

Maybe today you need to look up into the Miracles of Jesus stained glass window and see a Sermon in Glass, a miracle waiting just for you today. Maybe you need to look up into the Nativity Window and feel God's power giving you new spiritual birth and rebirth today. Maybe you need to look up in the Window of the Prodigal Son and have those broken and prodigal pieces of your life stop running away from the loving Father. Maybe today you need to look up into the Sermon in Glass above the Chancel Area today and in the Rose Window see and feel God's unconditional, powerful transformational LOVE reaching out to you TODAY...Sermons in Glass...

And maybe we as a congregation better make certain that the LIGHT OF JESUS always shines forth from these stained glass windows...Sermons in Glass for a World that so desperately needs the LIGHT OF CHRIST..."*I am the light of the world*" says Jesus. Let Jesus shine!

"Let there be light!", as God decreed at creation in Genesis. (Genesis 1: 3-4) And there was light. And God saw that it was GOOD.

And the light of the world is Jesus. Amen and Amen.

*By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA
IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!*