

Hanukah in Holland?

John 10:19-26

Jesus' tradition ...

- I. The Feast of Dedication
 - A. Historical Roots
 - B. National Celebration
 - C. An Opportune Event
- II. The Festival of Lights
 - A. Divine Radiance
 - B. Light of the World
 - C. Eternal
- III. The Focus of Our Festivity
 - A. Our Liberator
 - B. The Light of Life

... a call for dedication.

Children, Listen ...

1. Have you ever heard of Hanukah?
2. Who celebrates Hanukah today?
3. Why would Jesus have celebrated Hanukah?
4. Jesus is the Messiah, what does that mean?
5. People living in spiritual darkness need the Light of Life – that is a person. Who is he?

Who Brought the Dreidels?!

You will not find the word Hanukah (or Chanukah) in your Bible, that is, unless you have a Hebrew New Testament. Then again, perhaps to your dismay, you will not find “Holland” in any translation at all. So, why preach about this distinctly Jewish holiday in a predominantly gentile community? Well, because Jesus celebrated it - it was a life tradition for Him, His family and His nation. In our text we discover that Jesus used this holiday as an opportunity to answer the vital question of His Messiah-ship in the affirmative – yes, He is the deliverer of His people. In addition to that, the significance of light in the celebration reminds us of the fact that Jesus is the “Light of the Word.” This very Jewish holiday, celebrated by the very Jewish Jesus so long ago has a message for Jew and Gentile today and even speaks right into all the festivity in our respective communities this time of year in these modern times. Jesus still delivers from the oppression of sin and Satan and gives light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover and her warfare now is over.

- Johannes Clearius 1671 (Isaiah 40)