

## The Light and The Lamp

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Scriptural Text: Luke 11:33-36, ESV

### The Light in You

<sup>33</sup>“No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a basket, but on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. <sup>34</sup>Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness. <sup>35</sup>Therefore be careful lest the light in you be darkness. <sup>36</sup>If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, it will be wholly bright, as when a lamp with its rays gives you light.”

God generously gives to us light by which to see and He holds us accountable for using the light He gives to us so that we might see. Not everyone who possesses the same evidence sees the same thing or sees the same truth. Some perceive God's Truth with very little evidence. Others are blind to the Truth even though a mountain of Truth is set right in front of their face. It is possible for us to be willfully blind to the Truth God graciously gives to us.

Jesus frequently condemns the religious leaders of His day for this very condition – willful blindness. In Matthew 15, Jesus says,

<sup>14</sup>“Let them alone; they are blind guides. And if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.”

The very leaders God had entrusted with in communicating His Truth to the people, communicating His glory, communicating His Messiah do not see God's Truth, yet they continue to be in positions of leadership; the blind leading the blind. Instead of leading people upward to God, upward to worship, upward to wholeness in life and in joy, they were leading the people into a cavernous pit of death. Jesus calls them out publically for it. What a word picture He paints.

When I read that verse, I think of a group of blind men and women who are touring the Grand Canyon and they hire a guide in hopes the guide will help them to walk along some of the trails without falling off of a precipice and that the guide will be able to describe to them what is in front of them and seek to enjoy the canyon through the eyes of the guide. Yet, when they get the guide, they discover the guide is as blind as they are. And, the guide leading them along the trails is just as likely to fall off into the canyon as they would if left by themselves. What a word picture.

Jesus continues to labor this point about these spiritual leaders, in Matthew 23,

<sup>24</sup>“You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel! <sup>25</sup>“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. <sup>26</sup>You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean.”

Jesus pulls no punches with regards to this sin of willful blindness. Jesus calls the Pharisees out as religious counterfeits. Beloved, it really matters what we believe. Everything about life hinges upon what we see as being true. The Pharisees, instead of seeing and perceiving true righteousness, they grabbed onto sinful self-righteousness. Instead of seeing humble repentance, they grabbed onto proud defensiveness. Instead of seeing God and His glory, they saw themselves and they saw their own glory. All the while, they continued to say, “We represent God. We speak God's Truth. God is on our side.” They are completely blind as to what is spiritually about their own lives and about God. Today, we suffer the same malady: the blind still lead the blind.

The Pharisee's spiritual blindness caused them to reject Jesus as God and as the Messiah, even though He laid at their feet a mountain of evidence to prove He is exactly who He claims to be. Even though Jesus performed miracle after miracle after miracle, even though He taught sermon after sermon after sermon, what more could Jesus possibly do to support His claim to be God and be the Messiah than what He did do?

He turned water into wine.<sup>1</sup> He stilled the stormy sea.<sup>2</sup> He cast demons out of demoniacs.<sup>3</sup> He walked on water.<sup>4</sup> He multiplied five loaves and two fish.<sup>5</sup> He caused the lame to walk,<sup>6</sup> the deaf to hear,<sup>7</sup> the blind to see,<sup>8</sup> the leper to be clean,<sup>9</sup> and, in fact, the dead to be raised to life.<sup>10</sup> He performed these miracles constantly from one end of the Province to the other in Galilee, yet the Pharisees continued to deny and reject the very Truth and the very Light in front of them.

The context of this parable begins in Verse 14. The skeptics in Jesus' day did not have the luxury to deny Jesus did the miracles. Today, skeptics have that luxury because we have such a long history between the miracles and present day. Even Jesus' fiercest enemies could not do that because they would look foolish if they said, "Jesus did not perform miracles! He is a fictional character." No, Jesus is in front of the people every day and He is going out and performing miracles. The miracles are absolutely undeniable to the skeptics.

What could they do? They could still remain skeptics and reject the Messiah as God. They recognized, "If we acknowledge Him as God we have to bow down, follow Him, and obey Him. I am not going to do that." Their own self-will and their own agenda for their life was too important, so in willful blindness they turned from Jesus.

What were their options? They were two-fold. First, how are they going to explain the power Jesus unleashed in performing these miracles? One idea was to attribute that power to Satan. He is a powerful being. Satan, also, can perform mighty acts so they believed they could attribute this power in Jesus to cast out demons and other miracles to Satan. On the other hand, other skeptics took a different tack and both are addressed in this chapter. The others said, "We will wait and see. We will delay making a commitment and we will ask for more miracles. If He just shows us more evidence, then we will make a commitment."

These were the two responses of skeptics in Jesus' day. First, what He did was from the Devil and, secondly, they would wait and not make a commitment until they saw more. Jesus addresses, first, those who address His power to the Devil. After skeptics had attributed His casting out of this person a demon, Jesus responds,

*<sup>17</sup> "But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. <sup>18</sup> And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand?"*

He is asking His skeptics if any of this makes any sense. Why would Satan cast out his own demons out of an individual whom he controls. Then Jesus continues,

*<sup>20</sup> "But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you..." <sup>23</sup> Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters."*

He is telling them they need to understand what they are doing when they reject Him. They are rejecting the Kingdom of God, God, His righteousness and all of the blessings He can bring into their life. He is telling them if they reject the Light God is bringing to them, they will miss the Kingdom of God.

This is no superficial theological disagreement as to where Jesus' power comes from. Jesus is telling them this is life and death and they are to be careful as to how they chose. The principle Jesus is teaching them and us is: Being wrong about Jesus' identity will keep us from God and His Kingdom forever and ever. That is how central this is as to who Jesus is.

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<sup>1</sup> John 2:1-11

<sup>2</sup> Matthew 8:23-26

<sup>3</sup> Matthew 8:28-34; Matthew 16:14-18

<sup>4</sup> Matthew 14:22-25

<sup>5</sup> Matthew 14:15-19

<sup>6</sup> Matthew 9:1-7; John 5:1-9

<sup>7</sup> Mark 7:31-32

<sup>8</sup> Matthew 9:27-30a; John 9:1-7

<sup>9</sup> Luke 5:12-13

<sup>10</sup> Matthew 9:18-19, 23-24; John 11:1-44

We continue to read,

<sup>29</sup> When the crowds were increasing, he began to say, *“This generation is an evil generation. It seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah.”*

Jesus turns from addressing the people who rejected Him by saying His power was from the Devil to the people who want to wait and have more evidence of Him showing more signs and more miracles. Jesus tells them they are just as evil as those who suggest His power is from the Devil.

**We need to consider the introduction of the Light.** God introduces Light into this world both physically on the first day of Creation and spiritually when Jesus is born into this world.

The crowds are increasing during Jesus’ ministry because they want to see more miracles. They believe this is a great show and what a show it must have been. Can you imagine going to a place where you see people you know who have been blind for decades of time, people you know who have gone crazy by demonic forces, people you know who have leprosy and there is no hope for them in life, and people who know who are dead. You go to their funeral and they are raised to life! What an incredible display of power!

But, they said, “Hey, we want to see more,” because they were interested in the entertainment value of Jesus’ ministry. But, Jesus did not perform miracles to entertain. The purpose of Jesus’ miracles was to shine spiritual light into the world, to validate the claims He was making about Himself, about God’s Kingdom and about God’s salvation. He told them He was God come in the flesh, He was the messiah, He was the Redeemer, that no one could come to the Father except through Him and it was through Him that the forgiveness of sins could be found. They asked Him how they could be sure He was speaking the truth and He would perform a miracle, “I will show you God’s power is in Me. So you will know I am who I claim to be I will perform miracles.”

But, that is not why the people wanted to see more miracles. They did not want to find God. They wanted to find entertainment, excitement and enthusiasm in their own life. God is so loving to introduce Light into this world. John introduces his Gospel this way,

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

He is speaking about Jesus. He is saying, “Jesus is My communication from Heaven to you.” God uses the image of light to talk about spiritual truth which has previously been concealed and hidden from us, but it is now made known and Jesus is the Source of Life and Light, true understanding and knowledge of God Himself. This world is a dark world without God and without spiritual understanding.

<sup>John 8:12</sup> Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, *“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”*

Life and Light are always connected. Where there is no Light there is no life. That is why it is so important to see the spiritual Light Jesus brings. When Jesus, God the Father, introduces spiritual Light into this world, He introduces this Light with a brightness unprecedented and unavoidable. This Light is Jesus and it is the truth about God and about God’s Kingdom Jesus brings with Him. This Light shows us what the meaning of life is. This Light shows to us what is true about righteousness, future judgment, eternity, this present world and everything. God introduces Light into the world, yet the world does not receive it. It willfully closes its eyes to this Light. That is what has happened to the people.

Can you imagine, Jesus cast out this demon and instead of them saying, “Let me move toward Jesus to find out more about Him,” they say, “No! He is from the Devil. No! Show us something else.” The heart of man is spiritually dark and he does not love the Light. When the Light comes it rejects the Light.

Jesus tells us this delay in making a commitment to God is evil. Why is it evil?

<sup>29</sup> When the crowds were increasing, he began to say, *“This generation is an evil generation. It seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah.”*

The people were willfully delaying a commitment to respond to the Light given to them. Jesus told them they were evil for that and God will hold them responsible for responding to the light they have if they continue to turn their eyes and heart away from it. In seeking more signs they were actually shutting their eyes to the Truth their eyes were meant to provide. Why don't people believe the Light Jesus shines into this world? Why is it people turn their heart against Him? The problem is never a lack of God's Light. The problem is a lack of our sight. It is that our eyes have chosen to close themselves to the Light God gives to us. God shines His Light of the world but man closes his eyes to Him so as not to see, for if he saw then he would have to change and he does not want to do that.

**There are two responses to the Light: first, we can receive the Light and, second, we can reject the Light.** It is the same Light with two radically different responses. The same Light shines into a room and the people experience that Light in two radically different ways. One person remains blind to what is in the room and the other person suddenly sees everything and in a way they never, ever saw before.

These two response to Light are in view from the very beginning of time. Think of the first two sons of Adam and Eve: Cain and Abel. Both had the same Light. God gave to them the same revelation about Himself. Both had options in front of them regarding what they would do with the Light. God had revealed to them who His is, how He should be approached and how He should be worshipped and enjoyed. Abel opened his eyes and said, “Yes, I am going to embrace the Light. I will respond the way God tells me to respond. I will follow that Light and obey it and live after it.” Cain said, “Nope. I do not want that light. I have a better way,” so he closed his eyes to the Light believing he had a better way and he ended up in misery and death.<sup>11</sup>

This is a picture of everyone. Everyone of us, when we see the Light, and God sends Light into this world and He introduces Light to each one of us, has a responsibility: What are we going to do with the Light? We can be Able and say, “Yes, I believe it and I receive it,” and we receive even more Light as a result. Or, we can be like Cain and say, “No, I have a better way. I will shut my eyes to the Light You give.”

In Jesus condemnation, He calls two Old Testament witnesses to this generation of people who have decided to shut their eyes to Him and reject Him. He recalled the people of Nineveh and He called the queen of the South,

<sup>30</sup> *“For as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so will the Son of Man be to this generation. <sup>31</sup> The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.”*

Why does the queen of the South say, “You, who rejected the light Jesus brought, I condemn.” Why does she do that? The queen of the South came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon and behold something much greater than Solomon was there, someone much brighter and shinier in the Light of God than Solomon was. And, the queen of the South traveled in a caravan for 1,200 miles to seek Solomon and see if he really was who the reports claimed him to be, a messenger from God and could help her to know who God is.

<sup>32</sup> *“The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.”*

Jesus is telling them it is time for them to take ownership for the Light God has given to them. It is time for them to hold themselves responsible. There is to be no more wait-and-see mentality. That is a ruse for willful rejection and they will be held accountable for it. Jesus is reminding them the people of Nineveh only Jonah for a short time and Jonah did not give to them any miracles. Jonah's message was, “Forty days and you will be destroyed.”<sup>12</sup> Jesus is teaching in the synagogue, unfolding the mysteries of the Kingdom of God, performing miracle after miracle. Those

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<sup>11</sup> Genesis 4:1-16

<sup>12</sup> Jonah 3:4

people heard Jonah and what did they do with the Light given to them? They responded and they repented, but the people who hear Jesus respond, "Hey, Jesus, give us one more miracle." Jesus tells them, "On the Day of Judgment, the people of Nineveh will rise up and condemn you."

Think of the queen of the South. She heard a report there was some king 1,200 miles away, a long distance even in our day, but an incredible distance in her day. What did she do? The instant she heard this person had wisdom from God she immediately got a caravan together and expended time, energy and money to get to Solomon to talk with him. When she talk with him, she said, "You have twice as much wisdom as the reports told me you have." She embraced the Truth about God Solomon gave to her.

Think of this, Jesus is in Galilee teaching and preaching and performing miracles day-in and day-out, all over the country. He in front of them, but they say, "Give to us another miracle." The queen of the South is going to rise up in judgment and say, "Why didn't you seek after this One who was in your hometown? What were you thinking? What were you doing with the Light God had given to you?"

No one can say, "I am blind to God because I do not have enough light." God holds us accountable for the Light He gives to us. Beloved, He has given to us here, in Peoria, Illinois, in the United States, an incredible Light but we do not see His glory. Our problem is never a lack of Light. Our problem is a lack of sight. Warren Wiersbe says, "Even the brightest sun cannot make a blind man to see."

Why do people reject the Light? Jesus answered it succinctly in John 3,

*<sup>19</sup> "And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. <sup>20</sup> For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed."*

People love the darkness of their own heart. They love their self will. They love the autonomy and independence in doing their own thing. Our human heart enjoys sin and independence and self will too much to receive God's Light and there is where we will stay if it were not for the gracious work of the Holy Spirit.

When I lived in Texas for a little while. It is a wonderful place to live, for a while. Kimberly and I were married and we got our first apartment. We had never experienced what we experienced when we first began living there. When we would leave the apartment, we would come back at night and turn on the lights. Do you know what would happen? There would be cock roaches all over the place scattering when the lights went on. They loved the darkness. They hated the light. We got in the mood of getting a newspaper or a shoe and before we would turn on the lights we would pop, pop, pop and kill as many as we could.

Jesus asks us, "Do you know why you do not receive the Light?" He tells us it is because we have a cock roach heart and we do not want the Light. It is not our nature. Let us take a good look at our heart and ask the question: Do I really desire the Light? That is a tough question, even for believers. We, as believers, can get into a state and we begin to move away from the Light because we know what the Light will tell us.

I talk with people who tell me they have not read their Bible for months. It is because when they do they begin to feel uncomfortable because there is an issue and there is something they will have to change when they begin to read their Bible. Some tell me they have not gone to church for months because it makes them feel uncomfortable. Do you know why that is? It is not because the Light is bad for them. It is because their heart hates the Light and it does not want to change. It loves sin. That is what is happening.

Jesus is warning us so we would leave that condition if we find in our self and we would be cautioned so as to steer clear of that condition, that we might not find our self in it.

What is ironic about this is, those people who were rejecting the Light were the people, if we were to ask the, who thought they were in the Light. They would say, "We are the ones who have God's Light. We have the Truth. We found a new way of living." In 2 Corinthians 4, the Apostle Paul writes,

<sup>3</sup> And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup> In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup> For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup> For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Paul is telling us this is a joint cooperation with the god of this world and our own self. Our own self tells us, "I do not want to confront the sin of my own heart. I love my sin. I love my self will. I love my autonomy." Satan comes and says, "I will use that," and he begins to blind our heart so we cannot see the Light God gives to us about the spiritual world and about what is true. Salvation is God saying, "Let there be light," and we begin to see. We love the Light and we are drawn nearer to the Light because we see the glory of God in the face of Jesus. That is what the Light does. We do not ever need to be afraid of the Light. A cockroach needs to be afraid of the light, but not a child of God. That is not how we respond to the Light. The Light is a place for life itself.

Recently I talked with a young business man. He was a winsome young man. I liked him very much and he seemed to be very successful in what he did. I asked him if he attended church anywhere. He replied, "No, I have never gone to church. My mom was a single mom. She raised me. We never went to church. She taught me ethics and responsibility." Then he looked at me and he said, "This has worked really well for me in my life and I am going to stick with this plan."

Do you catch what he is saying? He is telling us, "I do not know if there is Light, but I am not interested in finding out. I have enough light right now. The light I have is the light I am living in and I enjoy that light." This is why Satan masquerades as an angel of light. If he can get us believing there is light in other philosophy, ideology or way to live our life, then he gets us like this young man, "I do not need anything else and I am not interested in finding out."

**There are two blessings in receiving the Light. First, we are able to shine our light to others,**

<sup>33</sup> *"No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a basket, but on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light."* <sup>34</sup> *Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness.*

Remember, the Light is Jesus. The lamp is our eye. What is Jesus talking about? He is not talking about our physical eyes. What do a lamp and an eye have in common? Both receive light. A lamp receives light and it is not light in and of itself; it has to be lit. The lamp is the instrument by which the person receives Light and spiritual truth about God and spiritual understanding about Jesus and life.

The eye is the same. The eye does not cause us to see. Instead, it receives light. If there is no light the eye is useless. It cannot see anything. When it receives Light, it uses the Light so the whole body can perceive and have spiritual understanding. Jesus is talking about this instrument we use to receive Light. What is that instrument? Elsewhere it is called our heart and our will. These are analogies God is using to describe that instrument we use to receive and embrace the truth God has for us. No one becomes born again and no one receives the Light from God inside their person and then takes that light and puts it in a cellar or under a bed. That would be foolish. Who does that? The whole purpose of having a lit lamp is so it can be set on a stand so others as well in the household can see.

I believe many believers are living foolish lives with lit lamps in cellars or under beds. A lit lamp shines light in every place it goes and a person who receives God's Son is given the vital purpose of helping others to see Him as God come in the flesh, as Messiah, as Savior and to carry His light into every place we go.

Here are a couple of application questions. First, is my lamp lit? Is my heart open to receiving God? Maybe that is the reason why I am not shining Light into this world helping others to see Jesus as God, the Messiah, and as Light connected to His Kingdom. It may be because my lamp is not lit. That is a very good possibility and we need to ask that question.

Second, is my lamp shining so others can see it? Am I positioned in a place or have I put myself in a cellar or under a bed? What a great opportunity this is of ours. Jesus tells us, in Matthew 5,

<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

This is a commandment given to us to make sure we do not become a foolish person who lights a lamp and puts it under the bed. That is a silly life and a wasted life. We need to get our self on a lamp stand. I know that is difficult and Jesus knows that is difficult, but it is vital.

I talked with a dear woman who is dying of cancer and the doctors do not give to her very much hope for very long. She told me recently she had asked for no visitors because she had had so many visitors and she had no time to talk with the Lord and she realized she needed to talk with the Lord. She needed to talk with the Lord because she needed Him. She asked me, “Why is it we wait so long to learn some of these most important truths?” She talked about how the Lord ministered to her that day. As I was sitting there, in the hospital room, as she was thinking about dying and talking about Heaven, there was light all over the room and I saw things I, frankly, had not seen before and I needed that Light. Get on a lamp stand! A lit light shines in every place.

I pressed the young business man a bit more, “Have you ever read your Bible or even read a Bible?” He said, “No, I have never owned one and I never have.” I asked him if I gave to him a Bible if he would receive it. He said, “Sure.” I do not know if he will read it, but he said, “Sure.” I believe that simple gesture is not praise to Ritch for asking those questions, but I believe that should be natural for us. Would this Book I was reading before I talked with this man, one that meant so much to me, mean I can talk to this young man it is the place God has given us Truth and Light and offer him that gift? Where else does Light begin to shine? I believe Light begins to shine everywhere – to our own family, to our neighborhoods, to our church. Light begins to shine when we receive the Light. Shining the Light is not that hard if our lamp is lit. It means we have enough boldness to get out there and get on a lamp stand and let things happen. Let the Lord work.

**The second blessing of reception is: We become filled with light in our entire being,**

<sup>34</sup> *Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness.* <sup>35</sup> *Therefore be careful lest the light in you be darkness.* <sup>36</sup> *If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, it will be wholly bright, as when a lamp with its rays gives you light.”*

The principle we learn is: our ability to receive light rests upon the health of our eye, the instrument that captures light. Again, that eye can also be referred to as heart or will elsewhere in Scripture. The eye does not create light. It simply captures light.

Jesus Himself is Truth. We can capture Light through faith and our will and a heart response that welcomes Him. Opening our heart to Jesus changes everything. When we receive this Light about Jesus inside of us everything changes and the whole body becomes filled with Light. Every part of our life changes when Jesus’ Light is captured through the eye of our soul, through our heart. It will change the way we think and live about everything.

Christian, let us remind our self only the Gospel of Jesus can shine this kind of light and that is why we must always push toward the Gospel. It is not our own argument, our own reasoning, our own intelligence, our own logic, nor our own philosophy that changes anything. It is the Gospel that changes everything. We need to keep driving back to the Gospel because that is where Light is and if we receive the Light our whole body becomes filled with Light and everything begins to make sense. We see all of life differently.

I love the story of a woman by the name of Rosaria Butterfield. She was a lesbian, English professor at Syracuse University who hated Christianity. In her late 30’s she encountered a godly Christian pastor and wife who simply opened their home to her and loved on her. Over the course of months they shined the Light of God to her. Prior to this relationship she regarded as damaging to the world and as unhealthy, but her eyes began to be opened to the Truth as to who God is as she sat with two Light-bearers. She describes her story as a “train wreck at the hand of the supernatural”. She writes, “Conversion put me in a complicated and comprehensive chaos. I sometimes wonder, when I hear other Christians pray for the salvation for the lost, if they realize this comprehensive chaos is the desired end of such prayers. Often people ask me to describe the lessons is learned from this experience. I cannot. It was too

traumatic. Sometimes in crisis we do not learn lessons. Sometimes the result is simpler and more profound. Sometimes our character is simply transformed.”

Today, Mrs. Butterfield is the wife of a pastor. No one convinced her through logical argument lesbianism is wrong and evil. What happened? Someone convinced her Jesus is the Light of the world and when she received the Light everything changed in the deepest parts of her being.

I think of a young couple I met almost two years ago. They were living together for years and years and years. We simply began to talk about Jesus and as we did, they received more and more Light of Jesus to the point of their salvation. When they got saved and they had this light inside of them they began to ask the question: Is it right for us to live together? They had been living as husband and wife for years. No one had to convince them, but suddenly Light shown on them and filled their whole body.

I talked with another business man over a decade ago. He, too, received the Light of Jesus inside of him. He began discipling in everything regarding his family and his business and everything began to change in its perspective. One day, after a couple of months, he looked at me and he said, “Do you believe it is wrong for me to take business clients to Big Al’s?” He had never questioned that before. It was a part of his work and the responsibilities given to him. No one had to talk with him and say, “Hey, I think this is wrong. I think this is immoral.” What happened? He received Light and Light began to fill his whole soul.

What happens when we turn off the Light? Darkness invades. Things we used to know to be true become fuzzy. Actions we used to know to be wrong, or know to be right, we become unsure of. What a joy it is to receive Light because Light fills our whole person when we do.

**There are three consequences of rejection: first, we lose the light we do have.** We develop spiritual cataracts. Our lenses become cloudy and the world gets darker and blurry. What creates our blindness? It is our sin and our unbelief. We become mixed up about everything in life.

**(Second, we will live in darkness all of our life.)** I am often puzzled as to how people think the way they do about certain issues in our culture. I do not know how a person can consider a little baby growing in a womb to be “just a blob of thing”. I cannot fathom that until I read Jesus’ words. What happens? If we reject the Light everything becomes dark and there is no end to the darkness we embrace as our own. Jesus will tell us we will live in darkness all of our life if our eye is bad, if our eye is evil. Even the light within us becomes darkness and how great is that darkness. What a horrible way this is to live. What a horrible condition.

**(Third, we will be condemned in the day of Judgment.)**

(A healthy prescription for healthy eyes

- A humble repentance
- A radical commitment to follow Jesus as Lord and Savior
- A constant exposure to more light with a commitment to obedience
- A daily dependence upon the Holy Spirit through prayer)<sup>13</sup>

A relative of mine was traveling and they picked up this magazine, “O” The Oprah Magazine, I thumbed through it and while there are some good things in here, there is a whole lot of darkness. I wonder how many believers are looking more to this magazine than to the Bible. In this magazine is darkness for our soul and if we let darkness into our soul then everything becomes dark. If we let Light into our soul everything becomes Light.

There is a good series on “20 Questions Every Woman Should Ask Themselves,”<sup>14</sup> and they are all great questions but the answers are the problem. The twentieth question is: Why are we here? Isn’t that a great question? Listen to the person they chose to write the answer to this question. Barbara Ehrenleisch responds, “When most people inquire as to how and why this planet and life of ours came to pass, as most people do, they are offered a one-syllable answer, ‘God,’ and that is the end of the story. As for myself, I never received the God-answer. My parents were profound

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<sup>13</sup> The parenthetical comments were not covered during the message, but were a part of the notes of the sermon outline.

<sup>14</sup> “O” The Oprah Magazine. April, 2014, page 125.



atheists.” She goes on in her answer talking about how all of her life she kept asking this question and at times she almost gave up because she thought there may be no answer. She continues, “Plenty of times over the years I was ready to admit defeat,” but then there was a little of hope that she might find the answer. She ends this way, “I still do not know, but I can tell you this, a few years ago a five-year old swiveled around near me in her car seat and totally out of the blue said, ‘Grandma, why are we alive?’ ‘Ah,’ I told her, ‘to love and help other people, of course, and,’ I continued, although I could see her attention was already drifting, ‘one of the reasons we are alive may, in fact, be to ponder that question,’ because it had just occurred to me the work of answering the question, ‘Why are we here?’ may itself be a part of the answer. Asking after the purpose of life gives life purpose.” Really? That is the best answer of a person who took thought before she wrote in a national magazine could possibly offer her readers, “Maybe the whole purpose of your life is to ask the question, ‘Why am I here?’ and never find an answer to it?”

If the eye is dark how great is the darkness. What a horrible way to live. I tell you, beloved, there is a better answer to that question: Why are you here? You are created by God to live in His image, to enjoy Him, and to worship Him forever. The Light God shines in this world for you to connect to that person is Jesus Christ our Savior. That is a Light worth living!