

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

Light and Darkness

Last time...a lesson in thinking – right thinking and wrong thinking

This time...a lesson in Light and darkness

We will again be in Luke 11

Context: Resurrection...the sign of Jonah (real person, real great fish, real ministry)

v29-32

v33-36

We must understand the terms: Light and darkness

Light

Dictionary: that which makes things visible (to the eye); an energy (wave)

Bible (Scripture interprets Scripture):

1. The LORD, His nature

Ps 18:28 For thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness.

Ps 27:1 The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD *is* the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Salvation from death

Ps 104:2a Who coverest *thyself* with light as *with* a garment

Adam and Eve, created in the image of God
Adam and Eve sinned, died...the light went out and realized
they were naked (ashamed)?

Moses coming down off Mount Sinai after 40 days/nights
The skin of his face shined, Israel covered his face with a veil
And when came out of Tabernacle to speak with the Lord (Ex 34)

Is 9:2 The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

Jesus Christ

Is 42:6 I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;

The Father speaking of His Son, Jesus Christ

Is 60:1, 3 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

The Messiah, Jesus Christ

John 1:4-5 In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not

John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**

John 12:46 **I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.**

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights (plural), with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

1 John 1:5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.

Acts 26:13 At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me.

At “high noon” there is still some darkness compared to the
Light of the world

2. Life

Ps 27:1 The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD *is* the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Prov 16:15 In the light of the king's countenance *is* life;

Is 60:3 And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

Luke 1:78-79 Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, To give light to them that sit in darkness and *in* the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

John 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, *I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*

John 12:46 *I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.*

Act 26:18 *To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.*

Open eyes have spiritual sight

2 Tim 1:10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

Savior Jesus Christ – the Worker of salvation of man from death

abolished death – defeated death

Eternal life, immortality – a revelation of God

1 Peter 2:9 But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

By faith, we heeded His call

3. Path (way of living)

Ps 36:9 For with thee *is* the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.

Ps 43:3 O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles.

Light and Truth to lead me in the ways everlasting

Ps 56:13 For thou hast delivered my soul from death: *wilt* not *thou deliver* my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?

delivered = salvation from death

The dead have no light (nature of God) but the living do

Ps 112:4 Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: *he is* gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.

upright = those who believe in Him Who is gracious,
full of compassion, and righteousness

Is 2:5 O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the LORD.

Is 42:16 And I will bring the blind by a way *that* they knew not; I will lead them in paths *that* they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.

The blind are in darkness

The Way = Jesus Christ, by faith

Lead those who trust in Him out of darkness into light

John 3:19-21 *And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.*

John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, *I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*

Rom 13:12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

Eph 5:8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye* light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

darkness – dead in sin, the old man

Light – the new man, alive in Christ

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Darkness

Darkness: partial or total absence of light (not a thing but the absence of a thing...light waves)

Bible (Scripture interprets Scripture):

1. Nature of the flesh, the world, Satan – evil, wickedness

Ps 18:28 For thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness.

Sin nature inherited from Adam and Eve
Jer 17:9-10

Eph 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

John 1:5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

2. Death

Is 8:20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, *it is* because *there is* no light in them.

no light: dead in sin, unbelief

Col 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Power of darkness = death

Kingdom of His dear Son is Light and Life

3. Path (way of living)

Prov 2:6-15 For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth *cometh* knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: *he is* a buckler to them that walk uprightly. He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints. Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; *yea*, every good path. When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee: To deliver thee from the way of the evil *man*, from the man that speaketh froward things; Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness; Who rejoyce to do evil, *and* delight in the frowardness of the wicked; Whose ways *are* crooked, and *they* froward in their paths:

darkness – sin, deception, lies

Prov 4:19 The way of the wicked *is* as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.

The wicked do not believe, they stumble but do not see why or on what

Eph 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*.

Be holy, for I am holy (1 Peter 1:16)

With a Biblical understanding light and darkness, let's consider our passage

v33 candle...secret place...candlestick:

candle: light, lamp, illuminator

The purpose of a candle/lamp is to give light in a dark place

No one lights a candle and then conceals it or puts a bushel basket over it to cover it

One lights a candle to lift it up on a candlestick so that they which come into a dark place may see the light

Ps 18:28 For thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness.

Jesus Christ has not given His Light/Life to those who believe in Him to hide it, but to light up a dark place so others in darkness will come to His Light

As Jesus taught in the Galilee at SoM (Matt 5:15)

v34 light...eye...single...evil:

The candle/light of our body is the eye, the fearfully and wonderfully made organ that gives us vision/sight

The eye of man is

- either single – clear, free from distortion (believe)
- or evil – degenerate and diseased (not believe)

If the eye is clear and free from distortion, the body is full of light...
that life is well-illuminated

If the eye is degenerate and diseased, the body is full of darkness...
that life is dark

As Jesus taught in the Galilee at SoM (Matt 6:22-23)

v35 light...be not darkness:

Be not deceived, be not ignorant...

that the light in you (the luminousness that is seen, the light being radiated or reflected by your life) is not darkness

Spiritually speaking,

Darkness is not only the absence of Light, it is the enemy of God

- Whose nature is Light
- Whose life is eternal and who gives light/eternal life
- Who leads those who believe on a lighted path to eternal life

Without the Light of the world, Darkness is a counterfeit/false light

- corrupted nature
- eternal death
- a dark path of unbelief to destruction

2 Cor 11:13-15 For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Counterfeit light

- false doctrine (deceptive, lethal)
- hearing but not doing (v28)...unbelief
- lack of knowledge of God, not commensurate with the revelation of God given

- Hosea 4:1
the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because *there is* no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land
- Hosea 4:6a
My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge (His revelation)
- Hosea 4:14b
therefore the people *that* doth not understand shall fall.
- Hosea 5:4
They will not frame their doings to turn unto their God: for the spirit of whoredoms *is* in the midst of them, and they have not known the LORD
- 1 John 1:6
If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth
- 1 John 2:4-6, 29
He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.
But whoso keepeth His word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in Him.
He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked.
If ye know that He is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of Him.

v36 full of light...no dark part...as when:
 There is no room for darkness when our lives are full of God's Light,
 just as a whole dark room is brightened/illuminated by a candle/lamp/light

The Light chases away the darkness; the darkness must flee the light
 True light cannot be hidden

A spiritual lesson, therefore a spiritual interpretation

Light and darkness are spiritual realities, far more enduring than the familiar physical realities
 At stake: which resurrection

Context: Resurrection – the sign of Jonah (v29-32), the power of God over death

Dan 12:2-3 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life (*Light*), and some to shame *and* everlasting contempt (*darkness*). And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

Matt 22:23-32

- the power of God (over death) of the living (in the Light)
- neither marry nor given in marriage
- are as the angels of God in heaven

Luke 20:27-38

- they which are accounted worthy to obtain that world
- cannot die any more, for they are equal with the angels
- the children of God, the God of the living
- the children of the resurrection

John 5:29 (the hour is coming when they) **And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.**

John 11:25-26 Jesus said unto her, **I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?**

Acts 4:2 Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

Acts 4:33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

Act 17:18 Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, What will this babbler say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection.

Acts 24:15 And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Application

Men, descendents of Adam and Eve after “the light went out”, are born into darkness

Ps 118:27a God *is* the LORD, which hath shewed us light:
Light is a revelation of God

Man is born-again into light...or not (their choice of path/way, believe or no believe)
Must be born-again to come into the Light

Ps 18:28 For thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness.

John 3:3 *Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God*

Mic 7:8-9 Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD *shall be* a light unto me. I will bear the indignation of the LORD, because I have sinned against Him, until He plead my cause, and execute judgment for me: He will bring me forth to the light, *and* I shall behold His righteousness.

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights (plural, John 1:12), with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Then, the Resurrection, some to everlasting life, and some to shame *and* everlasting contempt

Therefore, we must compare the light that is in us with the True Light

John 1:9 the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

Is 5:20 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness

Follow the True Light...walking in Truth and Love with knowledge

2Cor 4:3-6 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

1 John 2:8-11 Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth. He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes

Hosea 6:6 I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings

2 Peter 3:18 grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

True light cannot be hidden
Darkness must flee the True Light

If we are not in the Light (in Christ)...
which comes at the cost of

- surrender – laying one's life/will/desires down for the Lord's life/will/desires
- continual submission
- humility

then when the Light (Christ) comes, we must flee...
being cast into outer darkness, a place of eternal torment, wailing, and gnashing of teeth

The solution is very simple – choose Life, come into the Light

In this study of Light and darkness, I did not speak of one very important verse in Scripture;
we will next week in our Christmas service