

Jesus, a Light unto our Path
Mark 4:21-25

"Darkness is something we're all reasonably familiar with. But there's a form of darkness that we can easily grow used to that the Lord doesn't want us to acclimate ourselves to. Often, when Scripture speaks of the concept of darkness, it's speaking about living a life that's distant from God. When we're living in spiritual darkness, the evidence of that reality becomes obvious. Our ambitions are primarily worldly. Our desires are centered around the accumulation of earthly goods. Our longing to exact revenge on others instead of extending forgiveness is heightened, and our lives are lived with the primary goal to satisfy fleshly appetites..."

But when we walk in the light of Christ, as those who have come to God the Father, through God the Son, by the power of God the Holy Spirit, we're demonstrating that our faith is genuine, our love for God is sincere, and we have welcomed the cleansing work of Christ whereby He has cleansed us of all sin by shedding His blood on the cross on our behalf. As we trust in Christ and experience the forgiveness He offers, He enables and empowers us to walk in the light. We're made able to walk as He walked, not in our natural strength, but in His power." desireJesus.com

- I. The parable of the soils speaks of our responsibility to receive the seed of the gospel so that it takes deep root in our hearts. When we do that, we will bear much fruit for Him. The parable of the lamp speaks of letting the light of Christ enable us to bear His fruit in a world of darkness. The only way darkness can be illuminated is with light. The only way we can have influence where God has put us is by letting the light of Christ shine brightly through how we live before others; there is no other way.

Mark 4:21

Rom. 1:24-32

Mark 1:27

Mark 4:1-20

1 Cor. 6:9-11

1 Cor. 3:6-9

1 Jn. 1:5-7 *This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.*

- II. We live in a world where darkness prevails, it is what it prefers instead of the light of God's truth. It is where things are hidden, where people dwell in secret so that their evil deeds are concealed. Grace brought light into the world to penetrate its darkness. It penetrated the darkness of our hearts to enable us to walk as children of the light (Eph. 5:8-9), which makes us light bearers for Jesus Christ. To minimize its importance in our lives is to love the darkness more than the light of the gospel.

Mark 4:21-22

Ps. 119:105

Rev. 21:33

John 1:5; John 3:18-21

"I did not come here to be concealed forever. I came here as a lamp that is to be set on a lampstand, so that the light that I bring may burst forth and manifest itself clearly to all who dwell in darkness. I did not come to be covered with a basket or hidden under a bed I came to shine forth... It is the duty of the church in every generation, of every pastor, and of every Christian to take up that lamp, cast the basket aside, and put the light in a prominent place where people can behold the truth of God and of His Son."
Sproul

John 8:12 *I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.*

- III. As children who walk in the light, we have been given the tremendous responsibility to be very attentive to what Jesus is saying to us as we walk among those living in darkness. Believers who are dull of hearing will inevitably allow darkness to rule over them more than Christ. Believers who fine tune their hearing to hear the voice of our Shepherd, will find themselves being able to stand firmly in the faith in this dark, godless, wicked evil world system. In fact, their influence will be used by the Lord to draw many out of the darkness and into the light.

Mark 4:23-25

2 Peter 3:8

John 10:27

Ephesians 5:7-14 *Therefore do not become partners with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."*