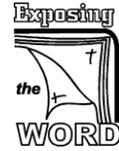




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30- A Light in the World: *John 12:34-50*

Our mind cannot fathom darkness so dark that if we turn on the lights it is swallowed up. They tell us that in space we have black holes that have sucked all of the light out of existence.

What about a light that is so bright that mankind cannot stand to look upon it for its brightness. May I say that in a spiritual sense both of these exist?

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

Jesus came into this world which lay in spiritual darkness as the light of men.

Mat 4:16 ***The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.***

John uses the word light twenty four times in sixteen verses in his gospel. The last time it is used is in our Scripture this session.

I- A Question of Eternal Origin:

Remember that Jesus has just presented Himself to them as their Messiah when He came riding into Jerusalem fulfilling prophecy on the donkey.

John 12:34 ***The people answered him, We have heard out of the law that Christ abideth for ever: and how sayest thou, The Son of man must be lifted up? who is this Son of man?***

They ask the question of what we might deem an eternal origin. They understood that Christ was to be eternal but here He was flesh and blood with an earthly origin. He was talking about being cut off and lifted up. This is based on verses such as *Psa 110:4*

The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

Isa 9:7 ***Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.***

So they asks who this son of Man is. Let me give us a story that I think sums it up quite well.

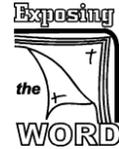
It is related how the need of the West Indian slaves was presented to the Moravians. The Moravians were told that it was impossible to reach the slave population because they were so separated from the ruling classes. Undaunted, two Moravian missionaries offered themselves as candidates. They said, "We will go and be slaves on the plantations and work and toil if need be under the lash, to get right beside the poor slaves and instruct them." They left their homes, went to the West Indies, went to work on the plantations as slaves and by the side of slaves, to get close to the hearts of slaves. The slaves heard them, and their hearts were touched, because the missionaries had humbled themselves to their condition. That was grand; it was glorious. Yet Christ's example was more glorious, for He stepped down from heaven to earth to get close to our side. He Himself came beside us that we might feel the throbbings of His bosom, be encircled in the embrace of His loving arms, be drawn to Him, and hear Him whisper in our ears, "God is full of grace and truth."



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II- Walk In the Light:

Jesus answer to them was on about light and darkness. *John 12:35 Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth. 36 While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them.*

He spoke of light and walking in the light. Why do we need the light? Because the natural man, tainted by sin, blinded to the things of God chooses darkness over light. John told us this in *Joh 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.*

We know that darkness is associated with spiritual blindness and light is associated with sight in the scriptures.

Jesus came to call me from darkness, spiritual blindness, to the glorious light of the gospel.

III- Blind to the Light:

When you see the simple truth of the gospel it is hard to imagine how anyone could not see it as well. We have seen repeatedly thought this gospel that they did not believe because they chose to ignore the signs and the truth that was being verified before them. They were blind to the light.

John 12:37 But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him: 38 That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of

the Lord been revealed? 39 Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, 40 He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them. 41 These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him.

Jesus is quoting Isaiah 53:1. They could not deny His miracles, disprove them but they would not accept them as proof.

Why we ask? Because of their blindness and darkness. Today we see this same thing holding onto lost men. Paul said in *2 Co 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 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.*

So when you pray for your lost loved one or friend pray that God would remove the blindness and allow them to see the truth of the gospel. Pray that He would open their eyes to the truth.

IV- Lovers of Praise:

Everybody wants to be liked. Popularity in schools when we are going up in important. This is known as peer pressure today. Everybody wants to be praised. Let me ask us all, whom are we seek to please God or man? John tells us that many would not come forth because of their want of praise of men. Many of the rulers loved to be praised by men rather than God.

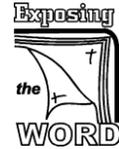
John 12:42 Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: 43 For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.



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We often hear the words blind ambition. Many people have been blinded by ambition and sold out for praise of men rather than God.

V- Rejecting God that Sent Christ:

Often times when we try to witness we take the rejection personally when someone does not accept Christ. But whom are they really rejecting? Is it us? May I suggest that when they reject the gospel it is ultimately a rejection of the God of the universe offer of grace.

John 12:44 Jesus cried and said, He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me. 45 And he that seeth me seeth him that sent me.

Christ tells them next that He only has delivered the words of the Father.

John 12:46 I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness. 47 And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. 48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. 49 For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. 50 And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.

These words of rejection of Him seem dark and foreboding like a thunderstorm on the horizon. Why, after all this is the same crowd that had welcomed Him into Jerusalem with palm branches and cries of

joy. Why, because this is the same crowd within hours that is going to reject Him.

Listen to the gospel account in *Luke 23:13-23 And Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, 14 Said unto them, Ye have brought this man unto me, as one that perverteth the people: and, behold, I, having examined him before you, have found no fault in this man touching those things whereof ye accuse him: 15 No, nor yet Herod: for I sent you to him; and, lo, nothing worthy of death is done unto him. 16 I will therefore chastise him, and release him. 17 (For of necessity he must release one unto them at the feast.) 18 And they cried out all at once, saying, Away with this man, and release unto us Barabbas: 19 (Who for a certain sedition made in the city, and for murder, was cast into prison.) 20 Pilate therefore, willing to release Jesus, spake again to them. 21 But they cried, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. 22 And he said unto them the third time, Why, what evil hath he done? I have found no cause of death in him: I will therefore chastise him, and let him go. 23 And they were instant with loud voices, requiring that he might be crucified. And the voices of them and of the chief priests prevailed.*

We know that Jesus was lead away and crucified for our sins. He came into the world to be light but someone who rejects Christ is so wrapped in darkness that the light cannot shine. Someone who comes to Christ is so wrapped in the light that the darkness will not prevail over them.

Christ is the light that men either embrace or turn away from because they cannot look upon Him in disbelief.