

The Peace Press

Seeing and Sharing the Light

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I have been enjoying our ongoing sermon series on the parables of Jesus. One that has stood out for me recently is that of the lamps in Luke 8 and 11. Jesus shares with us that He is the light of the world and that as His disciples, we are to see and to share Him with others. How can we do this?

In Psalm 27:1, David reminds us that God is our light saying, *"The Lord is my light and salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?"* In the ancient world, darkness was a daily part of life, as they lived without the modern artificial means of light that we have become used to and dependent upon. Darkness and the inability to function in the darkness was a daily reality. Such darkness was also a visual symbol and reminder of the spiritual darkness that surrounded them and of their deep need for God.

Jesus reveals Himself to us and to the world as the light of the world. He tells us in 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."* Jesus then provides us with warmth, guidance, reassurance, protection and presence. If we follow Him, we will have light to guide us out of the darkness of the world all around us, and the darkness of our souls. A key here is our willingness to admit we are sinners in the need of God's grace.

We now are called to share the light of the world. Jesus tells us, in Matthew 5:14-16, *"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."* Now, as the disciples of Jesus, because we have seen and welcomed Him into our hearts, we can and must now share His light with others. Note too that the light of Christ that burns in our hearts will give glory to Him, not to us.

The parables of the lamps in Luke 8 and 11 reinforce how we must

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share the light of Christ.

Light is meant to be seen and to be shared. If our hearts and souls belong to Jesus, we will shine brightly with the light that comes from Him alone. In a world that is increasingly darker, our relationship with Jesus can bring us life, light, hope and comfort. Jesus is the light of the world! May His light shine brightly in our lives! In Christ's Love and Service, Pastor Brian

