

## Sermon Series: Spurred on to Holiness (and Power) by Immersing Ourselves into the Life of Christ Through the Eyes of the Apostles – A Harmony of All Four Gospels

Sermon Title: “If Sunlight is the Best Disinfectant, Then the Son’s light is the Best Soul Cleanser”.

September 8, 2019

Today’s Scripture: See insert

Series Theme verse: Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. (ESV)

Introduction: Here’s a couple of news organizations I listen to that are doing a decent job of exposing the corruption in Washington D.C. Tucker, Hannity, Ingraham with John Solomon of the Hill, Sara Carter, Breitbart, WND. Each of these has played a major role in bringing the sunlight of truth to the public eye so that AG Barr and his attorneys can now go after the guilty parties and bring them to justice. However as growing Christians, we must be a whole lot more concerned about the corruption that is in our own hearts than we are in the Deep State. Here is where the Son’s light of truth is able to expose the sin the keeps us from enjoying the most abundant life imaginable and a life of fellowship with our Heavenly Father.

Main point: The medicinal value of God’s word on our spiritual lives is good only when taken in full doses. If taken in partial doses or not taken at all, there is a risk of it expiring and then it will have no healing power at all in our lives. This is true for Christians and non-Christians alike.

Context: Jesus speaking in parables (to cast alongside) Purpose is to reveal and conceal.

Exegesis: The lamp was not a 60 watt bulb, but an olive oil lamp with a wick.

1. The lamp Jesus refers to is God’s truth that exposes the dark lies of this world.
  - Jesus referred to Himself as the light of the world. *John 12:46 I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. (ESV)*
  - Jesus referred to John the Baptist as light *John 5:35 He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. (ESV)*
  - Then Jesus refers to us as the light of the world!! *Matthew 5:14 You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. (ESV)*
  - Today that truth is preserved in Scripture. Can truth be found outside the Word? Of course. Scientific discoveries abound, but those truths do not give light to the soul. They do not answer the eternal questions. They do not convict of sin and lead people to salvation.
2. Hiding God’s truth from those who are in darkness is cruel. *No one on lighting a lamp covers it with a vessel or puts it under a couch, but he sets it on a lampstand, so that those who come in may see the light.*

- Without the truth of God's word and the Gospel message, what is it that people stumble over?
    - They stumble over marriages that turn sour because they did not follow or know God's command not to be unequally yoked. 2 Corinthians 6:14
    - They stumble over believing salvation is by works. Ephesians 2:8-9
    - They stumble over Jesus Himself. *Psalm 118:22 The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. (ESV)*
    - They stumble over the truth that fornication is harmful, that adultery is disastrous, that drunkenness is destructive.
  - Question is do Christians care if their friends ignore the light of Scripture and stumble headlong into misery? Do we care if a girl is dating a non-Christian boy, or a Catholic friend is depending on confession and attendance at mass to get to heaven?
3. It is the joy of each disciple to give the light of the Gospel to his/her world before it is too late. (Don't we want to bring light to those in darkness?) *For nothing is covered up that shall not be disclosed, nor hidden that shall not come to light.*
    - What was covered up in these parables? Kingdom truths. Sooner or later every man/woman will hear plainly what they did not want to hear before. For example, on Judgment Day a non-believer will hear that they were a seed of Satan (darnel) instead of wheat. They will say, why didn't someone tell me? God will say they tried but you wouldn't listen.
    - Could Jesus be saying that the evil motives we keep buried and hidden will someday be revealed? Not here. This seems to be referring in its context about the hidden truths behind the parables.
  4. For Christians – the more we dig out the pearls of God's truth the more truth will become available to us. *Take heed therefore how you listen; 2 give attention to what you hear. With the measure that you use will it be measured back to you, and more, will be given you who hear. For anyone who has, to him shall be given, 1 and he shall possess an abundance.*
    - Sermons and books can be like fire hydrants – far more information than we can consume at one time. But, Jesus is saying to the crowd then and the crowd now, listen very carefully. Go over it again. Digest it. Then apply it. If you do, then God will grant you more. What's the measure? Bushel basket? Time and study.
    - Who is the person who has? It is the person who has taken the time to understand God's word and apply it.
  5. For non-Christians – the more they dig out from God's Word (via the lips of Christians) the more truth will become available to them. The greater the hunger on their part to learn the wider will be the open door to their heart to receive Christ. (The doctrine of election never excludes man's responsibility to hear and listen and obey).
  6. For Christians - the less they dig for the pearls in God's word, the less truth will be available to them. *But anyone who has not, from him shall be taken away even what he has – 3 that which he seems to have."*

- We see this happen in believers lives. They don't study the word enough or at all and along comes someone who tells them that we need to repent of our racism and follow the teachings of social justice teachers. Al Mohler, one of my heroes now promoting a veiled social justice / Marxist ideology as are some of his staff!! Wow you say, who knows the Bible better than a seminary president. Sorry, but somehow he is being manipulated or deceived.
7. For Non-Christians - the less they dig for the pearls in God's word, the less truth will be available to them.
- God is not obligated to pressure a rebel into becoming a believer. Who wants that? Muslims may get adherents by the edge of the sword but God does not.
  - If a person continues to choose to reject the truth in bite sized morsels then God does not have to offer any more.

#### Application

1. Daily Bread is good for snacking. Nothing wrong with a morsel of good spiritual food. But it is not enough.
2. Other devotionals are great too like Scotty Smith's. Now we are talking a healthy salad instead of just an appetizer.
3. But, if you want steak, there is only one way to get it. Read the word daily. Both OT and NT.
4. So, here is a test. Think back on last week's devotions. Can you think of one thing God has revealed to you that needs sharpening? I'll give you a few seconds. If you can't by the end of my prayer, perhaps you may want to reconsider your diet and how fast you chew.