

From the Pastor's Desk - Commentary on Matthew 5:14-16

For those of us who grew up in the church, we can easily power through these verses thinking the song "This little light of mine" neatly sums up what they are about. But in thinking about these verses, I would like to make some observations about the source of the light, the nature of the light and the effect of the light.

THE SOURCE

Jesus tells us that He is "the light of the world" in John 8:12 and John 9:5. If Jesus is the light, how then can we also be the light? The classic analogy is that of the moon and the sun. The moon dominates the night sky with its brightness, but the source of the light is the sun. In the same way, we may be excellent or poor reflectors of the light of Jesus. However in the darkness of night, even a poor reflection may provide sufficient light to be a guide. Without Jesus and the good news concerning his birth, death, burial and resurrection, we have no light to offer. It is only the gospel of Jesus Christ that can rescue us from the darkness.

THE NATURE

Darkness and light cannot coexist. When I turn on the light, the darkness vanishes. Where there is light there cannot be darkness; the converse is also true. This was true in Jesus' day and remains true today. Light and darkness cannot be mixed; you have one or the other. The same is true in the spiritual realm. I can embrace the truth or I can embrace a lie. There is no middle ground. Jesus is the light and truth or he is not. He cannot be "sorta" true.

THE EFFECT

It is the nature of light to dispel darkness and when it is given the opportunity to do so, the light of Jesus will dispel the spiritual darkness. He came to light our path to God. When that light shines, men are called to make a choice. We see this in John 3:20-21: "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God." Some prefer the darkness and seek to remain in it. Because light and darkness cannot coexist, to remain in darkness requires a suppression of the light. Should we be then be surprised by the level of animosity that is expressed against believers by those who want nothing to do with God? We should not. Others move into the light that Jesus provides and move into relationship with God. There is no middle ground. There is no semi-light, no gray. When our deeds are exposed to the light, we can confess them and move toward forgiveness, or we can prefer those deeds and move away from the light. I remember Chuck Colson once saying that it is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness. This is true because the candle makes the darkness flee. Even a dim light allows sight and movement. We should strive to be the best reflectors of the light of Jesus we can be but even a poor reflection can provide sufficient light to draw men to Jesus.

THREE WAYS WE CAN SHINE JESUS' LIGHT TO THOSE AROUND US

In reflecting upon this, I thought of three ways we can convey the light of Jesus to the world around us:

- We can be the light that keeps people from danger – A LIGHTHOUSE
- We can be the light that makes the path forward clear – HEADLAMPS ON A CAR
- We can be the light that provides comfort in difficulties – FIREPLACE

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2ND SUNDAY IN LENT
March 1, 2015

"You are the light of the world"

Since 1866

Theme:

"THE POWER OF PRAYER"

Matthew 6:5-15



Dr. Andrew M. Mosley, Jr.
★ Pastor



Reverend P. Frances Watson
Minister of Education/Administrative Assistant

The Celebration of Morning Worship.....8:00 A.M.
 The Church School9:30 A.M.

Mr. Arthur W. Byrd, Jr., Deacon – Superintendent

“You are the light of the world.”

Matthew 5:14a NIV

The PreludeMs. Angela M. Mosley
 “Old Time Religion” **No. 151**

The Call to Worship.....Dr. Andrew M. Mosley, Jr.
 “O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good:
 for his mercy endureth forever.”

The Prayer of Invocation In Unison

O God, who revealed glory in Jesus Christ to disciples: help us to listen to your word, so that, seeing the wonders of Christ’s love, we may descend with him to a sick and wanting world, and minister as he ministered with compassion for all; for the sake of Jesus, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

The Chant**No. 9**
 “Alleluia”

The Responsive Reading..... Minister
 “GOD’S EVERLASTING MERCIES” **No. 612**

The Hymn of Praise and Adoration**No. 3**
 “ALL HAIL THE POWER”

THE MUSICAL INTERLUDE

The Welcome/Announcements/Recognitions
 Mrs. Edith Lomax, Deacon/Church Clerk

THE MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Special Music..... The Volunteer Choir
 “Hold to God’s Unchanging Hand” **No. 51**

The Scripture..... Minister
 “Matthew 5:14-16”

The Prayer Minister

The Prayer Response Choir/Congregation
 “Sweet Hour of Prayer” **No. 332**

OUR SICK AND SHUT-IN LIST

- PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK AND SHUT-IN MEMBERS -

Mrs. Lillian Anderson3212 Rosewood Avenue
 Mrs. Dorothy Clark 1261 Marywood Lane, Apt 311
 Mrs. Marie Collins5301 Orinda Drive, 23223
 Mrs. Florine Fleming, Deaconess6201 Whistler Road
 Mrs. Helen Foster Beth Sholom Lifecare – 1600 John Rolfe Prkwy - Room 208/Unit 2
 Mrs. Addie Fountain607 Fountain Lane
 Miss Helena Fountain.....607 Fountain Lane
 Mrs. Denise Hardy10640 Anna Marie Drive
 Mr. Herbert Jackson 709 Parham Road
 Ms. Everlena King..... 4403 Forest Hill Avenue
 Ms. Marjorie McIntyre 1261 Marywood Lane, Apt 209
Ms. Chaldea Montague608 Fountain Lane
 Mrs. Emma J. Truman..... Imperial Plaza, 1715 Bellevue Avenue, Apt 208
 Mrs. Florence Tyler 1819 Pemberton Road
 Reverend P. Frances Watson..... 121 Taylor Avenue West, Hampton, Virginia 23663
 Mr. Uriel Winfree.....3210 Hunters Mill Circle
 Mr. Charles Woodson, Deacon 2135 Francis Road, Glen Allen
 Mr. James Woodson..... 3221 French Avenue

HOW MAY WE SERVE YOU?

Sickness in the Home Seeking Church Membership
Desires Offering Envelopes Desires A Pastoral Call
Moved to the Address Below Children for Church School
A Newcomer in the Community In Need of Prayer

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ DATE _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

Information supplied by: _____

Please check desired one(s), tear off, and place in the offering plate or give to the Minister.

Information supplied by: _____

DEACONS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH

Mr. William Hudgins (804) 270-1386 and Mr. Timothy Floyd (804) 527-1494

Please inform them of any persons that are sick

The Period of Prayer and Praise10:40 A.M.
The Celebration of Morning Worship.....10:55 A.M.

“You are the light of the world.”

Matthew 5:14a NIV

The Prelude Mr. Paul Locke

The Introit
“I Feel Jesus”

The Call to Worship.....Dr. Andrew M. Mosley, Jr.
“O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good:
for his mercy endureth forever.”

The Prayer of Invocation In Unison

O God, who revealed glory in Jesus Christ to disciples: help us to listen to your word, so that, seeing the wonders of Christ’s love, we may descend with him to a sick and wanting world, and minister as he ministered with compassion for all; for the sake of Jesus, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

The Chant**No. 9**
“Alleluia”

The Responsive Reading..... Minister
“GOD’S EVERLASTING MERCIES” **No. 612**

The Hymn of Praise and Adoration **No. 62**
“NO, NOT ONE!”

THE MUSICAL INTERLUDE

The Welcome/Announcements/Recognitions
Mrs. Edith Lomax, Deacon/Church Clerk

THE MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Special Music..... The Combined Choir

The Scripture..... Minister
“Matthew 5:14-16”

Special Music..... The Children/Youth Mass Choir

The Prayer Minister

The Prayer Response Choir/Congregation
“Thank You Lord”

THE MUSICAL INTERLUDE

The Stewardship Challenge/Prayer..... Mr. Timothy Floyd, Deacon
“2 Corinthians 9:6-7”

THE MUSICAL OFFERING/TITHES/OFFERINGS

(Benevolence).....In Unison

“Psalm 24” ^{KJV}
(MORTGAGE) Ushers/Deacons/Congregation

“Praise Him!”
(Tithes/General)..... Ushers/Deacons/Congregation

“What Shall I Render?”
The Offertory PrayerMr. Jack Stuart, Deacon

The Offertory Response.....**No. 559**
“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

The Preparational Selection..... The Combined Choir

The Sermon **Dr. Andrew M. Mosley, Jr., Pastor**

“THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD”

THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

The Invitational Hymn**No. 511**
“This Little Light of Mine”

The Silent Moment

The Benediction Minister

The Choral Response Choir/Congregation
“The Threefold Amen” **No. 553**

The Postlude..... “Let the Church Say AMEN”