



THE PURPOSE OF THE LIGHT

a church in the World

ABSTRACT

Did you ever see something that you had never done before, but you really wanted to do it? ...

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Scripture of the Day

*¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.*

*² For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.*

*³ And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.*

Isaiah 60:1 – 3

Introduction

Welcome to a church in the World where we strive to coach everyone, no matter their worldview, on what God has said about Himself from the Bible and not on what we would like Him to be.

For those of you listening to me on audio only, we are showing a small clay lamp used during the time of Jesus. This lamp will be filled with olive oil, then a wick will be added to the oil and lit. This lamp would give light to the single living area of the home.

When you look at this lamp, it looks so small, how can that give enough light to a living area so you can see? I have a question for you. Have you ever been in a room that was pitch black? I mean it was so dark, you put your hand right in front of your face and you couldn't see it.

I have. And we brought in a little lighter. One of the small ones that people use to light a cigarette. We lit the lighter and we were amazed at how that little light gave us the ability to see so much.

Today as we follow Jesus of Nazareth he talks about this type of lamp and "The Purpose of the Light."

Time to Follow Jesus

²¹ He also said to them, "Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket or under a bed? Isn't it to be put on a lampstand? ²² For there is nothing hidden that will not be revealed, and nothing concealed that will not be brought to light. ²³ If anyone has ears to hear, let him listen."

– Mark 4:21 – 23

'a' Lamp or 'the' Lamp

We have talked about the importance of studying the Word of God. Not just reading, but

analyzing. Such as making sure we understand the proper context, using different translations, looking at the original language, looking through trusted study Bibles and commentaries, etc. I know that this requires work, but as Luke wrote in the Book of Acts:

¹⁰ The brothers and sisters immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. ¹¹ Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. ¹² Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men. – Acts 17:10 – 12

Now in my study of these verses, I discovered there is a slight disagreement on how these verses should be interpreted. To help explain the reason for the disagreement I need to show you two translations for Mark 4:21:

He said to them, "Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed? Instead, don't you put it on its stand?"

New International Version

He went on to say, "Is the lamp brought in in order to be put under the bushel or under the bed? Is it not rather in order that it may be placed on the lampstand?"

Weymouth New Testament

Explain the a's and the the's ... ('o and no indefinite article in Koine Greek).

...

So because of this we end up with two separate interpretations, along with a somewhat combined interpretation. So I encourage you to study this for yourself, but I shall do the best I can after my study and asking God for guidance what I believe the Lord is speaking to us through this passage.

LET'S PRAY ...

The Lamp is Jesus

Expositor's Bible Commentary

21-23 In the parable of the lamp (the Greek has "the lamp"), the lamp represents Jesus who has come. As the purpose of the lamp is to be put on a lampstand and not under a bowl or a bed, so the present hiddenness of Jesus will not always be, and God intends that one day Jesus will be manifested in all his glory (at the Parousia). But now he is hidden. It is therefore of utmost importance for us to be careful hearers, i.e., to have spiritual perception.

Explain a little bit here and then move to the Ransom for Many:

This mini-parable has been interpreted in various ways, but in this context the lamp which 'comes' (the literal meaning of 'bring in' or 'brought in' in [v.21](#)) surely represents Jesus

himself and his mission. The message may be hidden to begin with: hidden away in parables, hard to understand. But in the end, truth will out. One day, everyone on earth will be confronted with the truth shining. As Jesus spoke these words, very few people, a few dozen perhaps, had any real idea of who he was and even they didn't have the full picture. But as the years have passed, the truth of Jesus Christ has spread throughout the world and now hundreds of millions have seen his light. One day, there will be no concealment as everyone on earth will be forced to see it. But when that day comes, it will be too late for those who have spent their lives rejecting him. God will hold each of us accountable for the response we give to his Son. Jesus says: 'If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear' (v.21).

BE LED ... and transition to the next section where:

We are Lamps Too

NIV Quest Study Bible

Jesus said the light we have should be shared with others, just as a lamp should be set out to give light to the whole room. The light is the message of salvation, the gospel—a word meaning “good news.” Shouldn't we want to share the good news about Jesus that has changed our lives and has the power to change the world?

Remember when I talked in the beginning about being in a pitch dark room and you couldn't see your hand in front of your face. This is where people who don't know Christ are. Now we don't make Scripture say something you want it to say. So at this time when Jesus is speaking I am more in the camp where Jesus is referring to Himself when He is talking to the Jews here.

However, now that we have the entire New Testament I will say that Jesus speaking here is an example to us about how we should be, because of verses such as these:

⁸You yourselves used to be in the darkness, but since you have become the Lord's people, you are in the light. So you must live like people who belong to the light, ⁹for it is the light that brings a rich harvest of every kind of goodness, righteousness, and truth.

-- Ephesians 5:8 – 9

BE LED ...

¹³For it is God who is working in you both to will and to work according to his good purpose. ¹⁴Do everything without grumbling and arguing, ¹⁵so that you may be blameless and pure, children of God who are faultless in a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine like stars in the world

-- Philippians 2:13 – 15

Conclusion

We have God in us. We are now the light, but we have to remember that we are walking in a world of darkness and the dark will hate the light:

– Acts 13:44 – 48

⁴⁴ The next Sabbath nearly everyone in the town came to hear the word of the Lord. ⁴⁵ When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy; they disputed what Paul was saying and insulted him. ⁴⁶ But Paul and Barnabas spoke out even more boldly: "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken first to you. But since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we will leave you and go to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷ For this is the commandment that the Lord has given us:

*'I have made you a light for the Gentiles,
so that all the world may be saved.'*"

⁴⁸ When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and praised the Lord's message; and those who had been chosen for eternal life became believers.