

LIVE IN THE LIGHT

MARK 4:21-25

Living in the light given

- Photographer Kevin Landwer-Johan stated the importance of light in photography
 - “The word ‘photography’ has its roots in the Greek language. Phōtós means light and gráphō means writing/drawing. Put them together and we have writing/drawing, with light. Light is the paint on our canvas. It’s the ink on our score or script. Light is a means by which photographers express themselves.”

Living in the light given

- Mark Brion stated, “Lighting is a key factor in creating a successful image. Lighting determines not only brightness and darkness, but also tone, mood, and atmosphere. Therefore, it is necessary to control and manipulate light correctly in order to get the best texture, vibrancy of colour, and luminosity on your subjects.”
- “Light is a means by which photographers express themselves.” and “Lighting is a key factor in creating a successful image.”
 - Without light there is no picture just a canvas of darkness, maybe shades, and fuzzy images
 - Confused, hazy, imprecise, obscure, uncertain, unsettled pictures which also can define our lives

Living in the light given

- In the great canvas of creation, the first thing God brought forth was light
 - **Genesis 1:2-4 NIV**, 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.
 - 3 And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.

Living in the light given

- Once again in the great canvas of life God brought light into man's darkness
 - **Matthew 4:16 NIV**, “the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. *(Isa. 9:2)*”
 - **John 8:12 NIV**, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”
 - “I am the light that brings life into your existence”
 - “I am the light that brings your confused, hazy, unsettled life picture into focus”

Living in the light given

- Like a good photographer we must know of light, understand light, apply light given so the picture of our life is clear and accurate
- The Scripture today is a continuation of Jesus' teaching on the Kingdom of God from last week

Scripture

- **Mark 4:21-25 NIV**, 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? 22 For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open. 23 If anyone has ears to hear, let them hear.”
 - 24 “Consider carefully what you hear,” he continued. “With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more. 25 Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.”

Living in the light given

- **John 1:4-5 AMP**, 4 In Him was life [and the power to bestow life], and the life was the Light of men. 5 The Light shines on in the darkness, and the darkness did not understand it or overpower it or appropriate it or absorb it [and is unreceptive to it].
 - The darkness has absolutely no power over light
 - Darkness can't diminish it, obscure it, affect it any
 - The only thing that limits the ability of light is to ignore it, cover it, or walk away from it
- This is what Jesus is talking about here – ignoring the light or accepting then applying the light given
 - If you don't apply, then you are in essence ignoring

Jesus is instructing them to make room in their lives for the Kingdom of God because it is coming

- You are desiring to take a picture of someone or something important to you and you know light is important
 - Will you bring the light into the picture by putting it under a bowl or bed?
 - You position it to provide the most accurate image that will be burned on the canvas

Jesus is instructing them to make room in their lives for the Kingdom of God because it is coming

- Just as in creation, the will of God is happening and you can reject it or accept it, but you will not prevent it
- “whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open”
 - Greek hidden and concealed – means not disclosing or unwrapping until the appropriate time, think opening Christmas presents
 - Same thought process with staying sexually pure until marriage

Jesus is instructing them to make room in their lives for the Kingdom of God because it is coming

- One of the things Jesus is saying is, “The Kingdom of God is coming no matter how much you fight it, slow it down, don’t want it...”
 - **Isaiah 43:11-13 NIV**, “11 I, even I, am the Lord (*and no one else*), and apart from me there is no savior. 12 I have revealed and saved and proclaimed—I, and not some foreign god among you. You are my witnesses,” declares the Lord, “that I am God. 13 Yes, and from ancient days I am he. No one can deliver out of my hand. When I act, who can reverse it?”
 - Hear Jesus say, “I am the King of Kings and Lord of Lords and I have come down to bring God’s Kingdom, My Kingdom to earth.”

Jesus is instructing them to make room in their lives for the Kingdom of God because it is coming

- Where is this disclosure, opening taking place?
 - In the hearts and minds of people, in you and me
 - Light of Salvation
 - Light of Discipleship which brings the freedom promised by Christ
- Scribes, Pharisees, Israel, World, You, Me – “Get yourself ready for the King of God is here and now!”

Pay very close attention to what you hear from the Spirit of God in the Word of God

- “Pay very close attention to the light I am giving you today”
- **NIV**, “If anyone has ears to hear, let them hear”
 - You have been blessed by God with His voice in your spirit
 - You have been blessed with the mind of God speaking into your heart
- Strive to understand
 - Strive - make great efforts to achieve or obtain something
 - The Hebrew word for striving means longing, a feeding upon, or grasping after
 - Satan, Society, Your old nature will war against it

Pay very close attention to what you hear from the Spirit of God in the Word of God

- NIV, “Consider carefully what you hear”
 - It has eternal implications
 - We are eternal beings living in a finite physical body
 - Don't let it get stripped from you (*path*), get distracted (*rocks*), intimidated (*thorns*) by it

Pay very close attention to what you hear from the Spirit of God in the Word of God

- Strive to grasp the true meaning and how to apply it to your daily lives
 - **Psalm 1:1-3 NIV**, 1 Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, 2 but whose delight is in the law (*Word*) of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.
 - 3 That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.

Pay very close attention to what you hear from the Spirit of God in the Word of God

- **AMP**, “Pay attention to what you hear”
 - We live in a distracting world
 - You are dwelling on God’s Word that touches your heart when you hear
 - A ding from your cell phone, Have a thought of a need to do for the day, Hurt from someone
- Put it into practice, War with it to plant the word then protect and nurture it
 - **James 1:22 NIV**, “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” – Why?

You lose what you don't use

- **Vs. 24 NIV**, “With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more.”
 - **AMP**, “By your own standard of measurement [that is, to the extent that you study spiritual truth and apply godly wisdom] it will be measured (*out*) to you [and you will be given even greater ability to respond]—and more will be given to you besides.”
- Jesus responds to a spiritually hungry heart
 - Someone said, “Nothing worthwhile comes easily. Nothing great can be achieved quickly and effortlessly.”

You lose what you don't use

- **Vs. 24 NIV**, “With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more.”
 - The "more" that will be added isn't power, influence, or material possessions...the things this world tells us is important
 - It's spiritual wisdom, truth, freedom
 - Jesus is saying that if we approach His teaching as if we were carrying a big basket, our basket will be filled with understanding and enlightenment
 - Jesus' disciples embody this when they stay to learn when the miracles are over (*Mark 3:33–35*) and ask for insight into the parables (*Mark 4:10*)

You lose what you don't use

- **Vs. 25 NIV**, “Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.”
 - **NCV**, “25 Those who have understanding will be given more. But those who do not have understanding, even what they have will be taken away from them.”
 - Whoever has the measure for more of Jesus will be given more
 - Whoever does not have the measure for more of Jesus, what they have been shown will fade away

You lose what you don't use

- You know this, it's true in every aspect of life
 - How many have flared up for Jesus then fail to develop strong spiritual roots only to flare out just as fast
 - Or how many have started pushing their spiritual roots deep into Jesus only to get distracted because it is hard and full of resistance
 - "I'm saved Randy. What difference does it make?"
 - Freedom, Peace and assurance, Heavenly rewards
 - **Luke 12:48 NIV**, "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked."

You lose what you don't use

- **Hebrews 2:1-3 NIV**, “1 We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. 2 For since the message spoken through angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, 3 how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation?”
 - The answer?
 - We don't escape if we ignore

Living in the light given

- The Apostle Paul has told King Agrippa his testimony about coming to Jesus
 - Maybe the saddest verse in Scripture is **Acts 26:28 AMP**, Then Agrippa said to Paul, “In a short time [and with so little effort] you [almost] persuade me to become a Christian.”
 - Don’t let this be your Scripture today

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