

SHINNING THROUGH THE DARKNESS

Lesson #1 –Letting our Light Shine
Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:13-16

Introduction:

1. Darkness can never conceal the power of light –E.g. camp devotionals
 - a. During this time all flashlights are to be off
 - b. Any camper who turns on their flashlight are quickly seen
 - c. Our light as Christians can never be hidden, nor should it be!
2. When we let our light shine before others, we are at war with the powers of darkness.
3. How do we win this war against the darkness?
4. We win the war by...

I. LOOKING TO THE LIGHT OF OUR SAVIOR

A. HE IS THE LIGHT THAT HAS COME INTO THE WORLD

1. John testifies of this Light
 - a. In Him is life and light that shines to all men –Jn 1:4-5
 - b. John came to testify of the Light, but was not the Light –Jn 1:6-9
2. Jesus is the Light of the world –Jn 8:12
 - a. In context, a woman is brought before Jesus accused of adultery.
 - b. Through the Light of Christ, she found forgiveness among those desiring to condemn her.
 - c. Jesus instructed her to go her way and sin no more –Jn 8:11

B. HE WAS AT OPPOSITION WITH DARKNESS

1. He was tempted of the devil –Mt 4:1-11; Lk 4:1-13
 - a. Jesus was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin –He 4:15
 - b. The devil only departed for a little while –Lk 4:13
2. He was rejected by men –Jn 1:11
 - a. Rejected by the religious elite
 - 1) They took pride in knowing the Law
 - 2) They should have known the prophecies about Christ –Ge 49:10, Ps 22, Is 53
 - b. Rejected by His followers –Jn 6:66-69
 - c. Rejected by His close disciples
 - 1) Peter denied the Lord three times –Mt 26:69-75, Mk 14:66-72, Lk 22:54-62, Jn 18:13-18, 25-27
 - 2) Judas betrayed Him –Mt 26:47-56, Mk 14:43-52, Lk 22:47-53, Jn 18:1-11
 - 3) All forsook Christ –Mk 14:50

C. HE DELIVERED US FROM THE POWER OF DARKNESS THROUGH THE GOSPEL

1. The gospel shined upon our hearts -2Co 4:1-7
 - a. God called the light to shine out of the darkness in the OT –Ge 1:3
 - b. Jesus shined the light upon us today
 - 1) The light of Jesus reveals truth –Jn 14:6
 - 2) We can know the truth through Him –Jn 8:31-32
2. The gospel delivers man still today from darkness unto the light
 - a. The apostle Paul was sent out for this purpose –Ac 26:17-18
 - b. We have been delivered from darkness –Co 1:13, 1Pe 2:9
 - c. Therefore we must walk as “children of light” –Ep 5:8
 - d. If we do not walk in light, we do not have fellowship with God -1Jn 1:5-7

II. REFLECTING THE LIGHT OF OUR SAVIOR

A. DOING GOOD WORKS

1. We are following the example of Jesus –Ac 10:38
 - a. He was often moved with compassion for the multitudes –Mt 9:36
 - b. He would heal and teach them –Mt 9:35
2. We are the “salt” and the “light” of the world –Mt 5:13-16
 - a. We are to be the agents of influence upon the world
 - b. We reveal the truth of God’s word through the light we shine
3. The purpose is to glorify God and not ourselves –Mt 6:1-18
 - a. Jesus teaches the proper attitudes in giving, prayer, and fasting
 - b. All we do is to glorify God -1Co 6:20

B. WE ARE TO SHINE THE LIGHT BEFORE MEN

1. Some despise the light
 - a. Jesus warned about this –Jn 3:19-21
 - b. We are not to have fellowship with them, but expose them –Ep 5:11-14, Lk 8:17
 - c. We must preach to word regardless -2Ti 4:1-5
2. Others joyfully come into the light
 - a. The apostle Paul –Ac 9:1-ff
 - b. Apollos –Ac 18:24-28
 - c. The apostle Peter –Jn 21:15-19

Conclusion:

1. E.g. –The lighthouse
 - a. The lighthouse is there to provide light to sailors so the rocks along the shore can be seen.
 - b. One would think all would love the light, but not all do.
2. Application: We must continue to let our light shine for those who love the light even in the midst of those who don’t.