

## Go Light Your World

Some years ago, a favorite Christian singer, Kathy Troccoli, blessed us with a song entitled "Go Light Your World". The song speaks of a special light that each of us who believe and trust in the Lord Jesus have within us. The lyrics begin,

There is a candle in every soul  
Some brightly burning, some dark and cold  
There is a Spirit who brings fire  
Ignites a candle and makes His home

And then the next verse exhorts us to take that candle, and go light this dark world of ours. Listen, she sings . . .

Carry your candle, run to the darkness  
Seek out the hopeless, confused and torn  
Hold out your candle for all to see it  
Take your candle, and go light your world

Those lyrics bespeak what these words of scripture here in Luke chapter 8 are also exhorting us to do. Follow along with me for a moment and listen as I read these words from Luke chapter 8, beginning in verse 16,

<sup>16</sup>"No one, when he has lit a lamp, covers it with a vessel or puts *it* under a bed, but sets *it* on a lampstand, that those who enter may see the light. <sup>17</sup>For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor *anything* hidden that will not be known and come to light. <sup>18</sup>Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him *more* will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him." (Luke 8:16-18)

There is a very special and mysterious light that shines in this world of ours, a light that is able to do things and to reveal things that we would not otherwise see, a light that enables us to see people and circumstances as we have never seen them before, to have and to understand attitudes and viewpoints that we would not otherwise be able to know about, and to perceive the intentions and purposes of men and women's hearts in ways we've never known before. It's a light that shines so deeply into a person's soul that nothing is hidden from it.

That special light is the person of the "Lord Jesus", the "True Light". And note that I did not say that Jesus shows forth a light. He does do that, yes, but this light is more. This light is far more intimate to our souls. This light is actually "who

Jesus is", "His very person". He is the "Light, the "Light of the World"! In John chapter 8, Jesus said,

<sup>12</sup> . . . "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." (John 8:12)

And in John chapter 1, we read

<sup>4</sup>In him (in Jesus) was life, and that life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not comprehended it. (John 1:4-5)

Jesus has many mysterious and divine attributes, all of which by their nature bless and benefit us. But this attribute, His "light" is especially precious because our world is dark and dangerous. It has hazards and pitfalls that we can't see with the human eye.

But mysteriously, only those who truly believe in Jesus are able to see by His light. Those who do not believe in Him remain in the darkness. They live and walk and have their entire being in that darkness. Listen to these words given in John chapter 3.

<sup>19</sup> And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.

<sup>20</sup> For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God." (John 3:19-21)

Thankfully, as you and I receive the Lord Jesus as our Savior and Lord, and as we place our faith and trust in Him, His special "Light" will begin to shine within us and out from us, giving us light to see by and also lighting the way for other people who will have "eyes to see" and "ears to hear".

Consider with me for a moment what this mysterious light of the Lord Jesus can do within the conditions of this world that exists all around us all of the time . . . Two people walking together through the same activities of life, one is able to see the real truth of what is taking place around them, but the other, the one who remains bound up in the darkness of this world, cannot see the things that the other person sees. They are consumed by the dissipation of darkness, stumbling aimlessly, unable to see, unable to comprehend the sweet and pleasant things of the Light.

Those words again from John 1,

<sup>4</sup>In him (in Jesus) was life, and that life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not comprehended it. (John 1:4-5)

These words tell us the reason behind all those times that you have said of yourself or of someone else, "why did I, why did they not see the wrongness of the things we were involved in? Why did we do such foolish things? We knew better".

Our answer to those questions is wrapped up in these words of truth that we are reading and speaking about here. Those who live and walk in darkness are like the blind who can see nothing except darkness. Danger looms all about them and their feet get entangled in one misstep after another, and in ignorance they do things they will later regret.

But those who walk in the "Light" are able to see those dangers, and thankfully, be warned before each step. In 1 Corinthians 10:13, we read about that

<sup>13</sup>No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

The Spirit of Christ who abides within each of us who believe in Him is always faithful to keep us warned of danger. But . . . with that being said, even with all of His faithful warnings, we can still find ourselves caught up in some of the entanglements of the darkness.

Why does that happen? How can that happen? It can happen because the "darkness" is not just some lifeless form of dark. Not at all! The darkness is ever and always active and alive with the inhabitants of that dark world, all of them going about their usual vile demonic work, creatures who dwell in the darkness and ever-live to make us stumble and fall into their pits.

Listen to these words of Ephesians 6 verse 12,

<sup>12</sup>For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. (Ephesians 6:12)

The darkness that swirls all around us is filled with unseen demonic principalities and powers and they take every opportunity to cause us to stumble and to stray and to join them in their wretched ways.

And they are so very deceptive and clever. It seems that it only takes a moment for us to suddenly forget all the things we saw while we were in the Light, and sink into the mire of their darkness. In only a moment, we can allow our anger, our frustration, or our confusion to take control over our emotions, and we are immediately plunged into the same dissipation that belies the rest of the world.

But with that being said, let me also hasten to say how much better it is for us who have the light of Christ present within us! We, at least, have the possibility of answers and relief from our struggles. And that is so much better than our days before we had His light in us!

But folks, there are many, many other people who still do live daily within that darkness. And those many other people are not just some strangers that we do not know. They are our closest friends, our family members, our loved ones. The light of Christ shines brightly all around them, but yet, by the choices they make daily, they remain entombed within a deep and foreboding darkness.

And let's understand clearly that it is not that the light of Christ cannot overcome the darkness around us. It can, and easily so! But within God's plan and provision of "Grace", He also requires some "right responses" from us, from you and me. He does not force us into His "Light", He "draws" us to His "light" and calls out to us, "he who has eyes to see, let him see".

And no, we cannot add to His "Grace" by our efforts, but a right response from us is nonetheless an essential requirement before a person can see by His "Light".

What then is that response to be? What is the responsibility that we have regarding the special Light that Christ has so generously placed within our souls? May I use a simple illustration to explain it?

Recall the instructions that we hear from the flight attendants each time we fly regarding the oxygen masks that deploy in times of emergency. We are told by

them to first put the mask on ourselves, then secondly, attend to our children and others in need.

The idea being that we cannot help others if we have not first secured our own safety. The same simple truth applies to us in these matters of “light” and “darkness”. The True Light of Christ can fully equip you and me to walk near to and deal with matters of the darkness, but we must know and accept that it is a very tenuous daily existence. Our narrow path, though well-lit by Christ, still tracks straight through the center of the deceptively dangerous broad path of the world. In Matthew 7, we read

<sup>13</sup>“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. <sup>14</sup>Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. (Matthew 7:13-14)

Again, may I say that our narrow path, though well-lit by Christ, still tracks straight through the center of the deceptively dangerous broad path of the world. And the path that you and I must walk is a narrow one.

And so, as I mentioned a moment ago, we must first secure our own safety from the darkness by first surrendering our own soul to Christ. And then, as we use His light to light our path, we can navigate through the difficulties of the darkness and are able to see and to help others along their difficult path. And that is the reason why Jesus gave us these words in today's text. Listen to them again!

<sup>16</sup>“No one, when he has lit a lamp, covers it with a vessel or puts *it* under a bed, but sets *it* on a lampstand, that those who enter may see the light. (Luke 8:16)

We must continually remind ourselves that the Light of Christ is not only intended for our own personal good and provision, but is also intended for the benefit of others. In Matthew 5, we read where Jesus gave a similar instruction to others. There He said,

<sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and praise your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:14-16)

These words tell us clearly that we are to take that which has been given to us and to give it out to others, to anyone who will listen. We dare not place the light of Christ under a cover.

In Colossians chapter 1, we are told that when Jesus left the earth and returned to heaven, He left much still yet to be accomplished. Yes, He had finished the work of salvation for us, but many throughout this world and even some within our own families still need to be told about His gospel. And that is to be our task.

We must not hide the sweet truths of God from our loved ones folks. We must let His light shine through us, to them.

These instructions given here by the Lord Jesus are a simple “word picture” telling each of us that the light of Christ within those of us who have Him as our Savior and Lord can serve both as a beacon and a guide for others. By that I mean, it is often the light within a Christian’s life that will influence even the most steadfast of unbeliever to go ahead and to do right things. They might not themselves believe, but under the influence of a strong believer, those unbelievers can step forward and do right things.

The hope is that the unbeliever will eventually give in and believe, but even if they do not, they will at least have been given the opportunity. And besides that, the good that they do even in their blinded darkness, will often be of great benefit to others.

And another subtle truth that is hidden within these words is one that encourages even a silent witness. Listen!

<sup>16</sup>“No one, when he has lit a lamp, covers it with a vessel or puts *it* under a bed, but sets *it* on a lampstand, that those who enter may see the light. (Luke 8:16)

Note that even a silent flame glowing in the darkness, has an ability to help those who live in that darkness. The picture that comes to my mind is the believing family member who throughout their daily life is a quiet witness to others in their family who do not believe. By the constant good efforts and favors of the believing family member, the unbeliever is slowly drawn to the light.

That is the way God works in men's and women's hearts. We who have the "Light of Christ" are being called to do our simple but all important part, and that is to let the light of Christ shine out from us. His light will do the rest.

And note here also in verse 17, another special power that His light has.

<sup>17</sup>For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor *anything* hidden that will not be known and come to light. (Luke 8:17)

His light can and will reveal the hidden secrets within men's hearts. Our responsibility is to be faithful to allow His light to shine through us and out to others. And we are sternly warned to do exactly that! Verse 18,

<sup>18</sup>Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him *more* will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him." (Luke 8:18)

It is your and my very serious responsibility to never allow our light to be hidden away from the sight of those who live in darkness.

Yes, we will encounter obstacles and roadblocks along the way. Too often our government rules or our employer or someone else will erect barriers, preventing us from letting our light shine. But there too, the Light of Christ will provide a way. Nothing can darken the Light of the Lord Jesus. It is more powerful than any form of darkness. If we will only be faithful in our willingness, His light will shine through.

God gives us assurance in the words of John chapter 1 that I gave to us earlier. Those words,

<sup>4</sup>In him (in Jesus) was life, and that life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not comprehended it. (John 1:4-5)

In those last words of that verse, "The Light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not comprehended it, the original words translated as "comprehended it" have a two-fold meaning. They can mean "to comprehend" or "to understand", and also, they can mean, "to overpower", leaving us with the understanding that the "ever-present darkness" that surrounds us each day can neither understand the "Light", nor can it "overpower" the Light.

And as we know from simply turning on a light switch in our house at night, the “light” immediately overpowers the “darkness”, never the other way around.

And so it is with the precious “light” of the Lord Jesus. His “Light” immediately overpowers the darkness around us and we are able to see everything, especially “truth”, very clearly.

May we close with these words of the Lord Jesus, and also the words of Kathy Troccoli's song. And may I encourage each of us, as we leave this church today to hold out our light so that the people in this dark world will be able to see. First, those words from Luke chapter 8.

<sup>16</sup>“No one, when he has lit a lamp, covers it with a vessel or puts *it* under a bed, but sets *it* on a lampstand, that those who enter may see the light. <sup>17</sup>For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor *anything* hidden that will not be known and come to light. <sup>18</sup>Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him *more* will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him.” (Luke 8:16-18)

And then the words of Kathy Troccoli's song,  
Carry your candle, run to the darkness  
Seek out the hopeless, confused and torn  
Hold out your candle for all to see it  
Take your candle, and go light your world

Let's pray.