

2015 Lighting the Way! Part 2

As we opened 2015... Heard God's call to "bear the light" to those who were still waiting in darkness...

We know the LIGHT HAS COME! **Is9.6ff, Galatians 4.4ff, Mt 1.18ff** "And in Him was life and the life was the light of men... He shined in the darkness... lighting every man... and as many as received Him... to them He gave the power to become the sons and daughters of God!" **John 1.4-12**

We know we are supposed to "GO!" It's part of God's great plan for us! We are "co-missioned" for the mission of bearing the light... "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. No one lights a candle to put it under a bushel, they light it to be placed on a candlestick so that it gives light to all in the house. Let your light shine like that so men can see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven!" **Mt 5.14ff**

There are no "great plans I have for you" that don't include "going/lighting!" And that should solve all the frustrations of "best-life" theology! But before we can 'go' and 'be there' we have to answer the question...

'Am I willing to let His plans unfold at the expense of unraveling mine?'

All of God's great plans for us are discovered in His one Great Plan... That we take up our cross and follow Him, daily, into the mission!

Matt 16.24,25 Mk 8.34, Luke 9.23 "If anyone will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, daily, and follow Me. For whosoever will save his life will lose it: *and whosoever will lose his life for my sake will find it.* And what has it profited the one whose plan is to gain the whole world if he loses himself, or gets cast aside? Listen, whosoever is ashamed of Me and of My words, of him the Son of man will be ashamed, when He comes in His glory..."

"My plans" have no value in comparison to "His plans" for us! But there is no way to know those plans until we are "out there" with Him... where...gifts will flow, ministry will bloom, miracles will happen, and satisfaction will be found!

Tina's Story... Left service last week challenged... Didn't want her plans to get in the way of God's plans...

@Palais Royal After-Christmas Sale... "Didn't decorate this year; downsized, lost brother in law, brother, and son... Speaking the language of darkness! "Can I pray for you?" @checkout, "Bright light in her eyes!"

We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus, for the good works He prepared, planned, for us to walk in!
Eph 2.10

"John was a burning and shining light which you were willing to accept for a season... but the works given to Me are a greater testimony!" John 5.35,36

"I am the Light of the world. The ones that follow Me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life!"
John 8.12 Context and Content... In context: "I don't condemn you, now go, and sin no more! I am the LOTW..."
"Woman, no darkness can stop you/hold you back from the life I give you!" **In content:** "If you are My follower, GO, and sin no more by not allowing the light of life I have given you to shine!" Let nothing stop/hold you back/mission!

In the scope of true faith, we were created to bear the light of God to the world and...

"Whatsoever is not of faith... is sin..." Rom 14.23

We must learn to *hear* words of darkness and *see* shadows of death... so that we can bear the light!

Luke 9.57-62 "One man said, 'Lord, I will follow you anywhere.' Jesus said, 'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man has nowhere to lay his head. And he said unto another, *Follow me.* But he said, Lord, *allow me first* to go and bury my father. Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but you go and preach the kingdom of God. Another said, Lord, 'I will follow You; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are

at home at my house. And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

The essence of the passage is that there are not enough excuses or reasonings... To keep *US* from following Him into the *DAILY* mission of bearing the light to a darkened world! But to do it we're going to have to pick up a cross, the place where flesh dies, daily!

Motivation and Ignition... "If the gospel is hidden, it is hidden from those that are lost. The god of this world has blinded the minds of those who believe not – to keep the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, the image of God, from lighting the way for them... but God who *commanded light to shine in the darkness has shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in Christ Jesus* and that treasure is in earthen vessels! **2Cor 4.3-7**

"I am the Light of the world and whoever believes in Me will not live in darkness!" John 12.46 Context and Content... *In context, a promise:* "If any man comes to Me and believes, he will no longer be living in the dark!" And we have known that wonderful feeling of coming into the kingdom of light! *In content, a warning:* "Those who believe in Me, who have come out of the darkness, should not, in any way, live in the shadows, under a lampshade!"

Remember... "John was a burning and shining light which you were willing to accept for a season... but *the works given to Me* are a greater testimony!" **John 5.35,36 Context:** is about *John* who came as a proclaimer of the Light of men... Words that they believed for a time! And the supremacy of *Jesus* shining the light of God thru the works God gave Him to do... **Content:** is about you and me seeing, in the Light, that "actions speak louder than words!"

Sensitize yourself to add ways to let your light shine so men will see them and glorify God in heaven!