

2015 Lighting the Way! **Part 7: "Looking Into the Light!"**

"I have set you to be a great light to the unsaved, that you should be for salvation unto the ends of the earth!"
Acts 13.47

"The Light of men is Jesus... and the Light came and shined in the darkness and the darkness didn't comprehend Him..." John 1.4,5

A Journey of Light... Last Monday morning...I was searching for two things... my daily FB devo and a confirmation! Had an *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass... experience...* Two really different, but sequential Lewis Carroll stories! First was a fall down a rabbit hole... *my own meandering...* Second was a step thru the mirror... *the revelation for this day!*

The Rabbit Hole... It was almost a surreal experience for me – falling into this revelation of Jesus... I was on a search for confirmation of the days, ways and means, of ministry here! God has been blessing us... but... never take it for granted... No one questions it more than me! I had to know we were on track, aside from the sense we were on the right side! People who *"presume"* to be on the right side often the ones on the wrong...

As I sat at my desk, asking the Lord for the daily devotional – "What do You want me to know and say to Your people?" *Remember my quest...* "Am I doing this right? Am I repping You rightly?" And, *What do You want me to say?* I sat "looking into the Light!" I began to type: "I have always thought of Jesus as being a very relevant kind of guy..."

The Devo... "I have always thought of Jesus as being a very relevant kind of guy... It could be that when I first met Him, I realized I had been so wrong about Him, that He wasn't just a religious icon, but a personal Savior, intent on having a real relationship with mankind, with me. I saw Him as the guy who walked around His neighborhoods *addressing the ills of the time – the religious hypocrisy, the deteriorated moral condition of His society, the prejudices of ethnicities, education levels, castes, and economic conditions.* He was up to the minute and a force to be reckoned with. *And He was extremely occupied with the condition of men's souls and this thing He called being "born again..."*

I was writing a devo and getting my answer! I stopped to search for examples...

Religious Hypocrisy... It wasn't just the #of times He called the religious people "hypocrites..." Anyone can be critical! He was diagnosing/confronting behavior! Blowing trumpets to show off your alms-giving **Mt 6.2...** praying to be seen by men **v5...** using vain repetitions **v7...** and fasting to solicit pity and build reputation **v16** Seeking after signs; entertainment, proofs, instead of reading the signs of the times and getting busy with your mission! **Mt 16.3ff**

He called them out for being "actors!" With your lips you say one thing and your hearts proved another! **Mt 15.7** Make disciples for personal gain! **23.13-15** Pretend like you care about others when only care for yourselves! **v23** Build the façade, but do nothing to clean the inside of your lives! **v25-29** You deny you're sinners! **v29-33** And you are "unfaithful!" **24.51**

He was dealing with the sins of apathy, distraction, self-rule – all marks of a church falling and fallen away! His desire was to prick their conscience have them awake to rightness and be caught up in the kingdom again!

Moral decay... His first recorded words to John the Baptist, "Let it be so, for it becomes us *to fulfill all righteousness!*" **Mt3.15** "Man doesn't live by bread alone but by every word proceeding from God!" **4.4** "Your

righteousness has to exceed merely religious principles... You have heard it said... but I say..." **5.21, 27, 31, 33, 38, 43** "Why do you sin, nullifying God's word with your traditions?" **15.3**

Out of the heart flows evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies..." **Mt 15.19** "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees..." **16.6** "What profit is it if you gain the world and lose your soul?" **16.26** "Woe to the one who offends one of these little ones..." **18.6** "You err not knowing the word..." **22.29** "Woe to the actors..." **23**

Being faithful to the end... Caring for the poor... Forgiving other men their sins... Reaching across ethnic lines... Kingdom apathy... The results of unbelief... Walking in the light, not darkness... Loving one another and our enemies (even betrayers)... Blaspheming the Holy Spirit...

Jesus was vocal on the issues of moral behavior!

Soul Searching... "Came to seek and save what was lost!" **Lk 19.10** "Unless a man is born again he will not see the kingdom of God!" **John 3.3** "This is the will of God, that everyone who sees the Son, believes..." **6.40** "I am the door, by Me, men are saved..." **10.9** "My Father loves Me because I lay down My life for the sheep..." **v17** "Enter in at the strait gate for many will try and will not be able..." **Lk 13.24**

Jesus was all about the mission of man's salvation!

Jesus, our Image... Was the Light that came and the darkness in man didn't get Him! "This isn't what we're looking for..." "This guy is messing in our business!" "*We're just looking for governmental dominance, religious freedom and the right to rule our own lives!*" Spiritualize greed/decisions/pursuits!

His lifestyle and preaching was... Holding them up to higher standards! Reminding them of true mission!
"Anyone else up there?"

And that brings us up from the rabbit hole to the looking glass, the mirror... When we look in, what do we see, a reflection of His image and light...?

Bearing His image and light in a darkened world does not require... Bravery... though we will appear brave! Courage... though we will seem courageous! Performance, though it works! Strong, outgoing personality! A special anointing! It only requires "reflection!" What do you see Him doing? What do you hear Him saying?

Look straight into the Light and, without seeing anything else, reflect what He's doing and speak what He's saying!

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