

2015 Lighting the Way! Part 8: "Sharing 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

Our Journey of Light... There can be no doubt left that we have all been called to bear the Light of Jesus image to the world around us! There is just as little doubt that we have been called to bear the light together as a Lighthouse in our community! Requiring time, energy, talent, faithful giving... As ordinary, everyday people we are to keep the flames burning bright! As we build up our reach into the dark!

We have looked directly into the Light to see what Jesus would do in, and say to, our world... and to mimic it! **In His image, we confront religious hypocrisy...** And keep safe from our own compromise! **IHI, we confront moral decay!** Personally and societally! **IHI, we search for souls in the darkness!** He was all about the mission!

As He was so we are to be in the world!

Today, let's take a look at sharing the Light! To many, that means, "witnessing!" Images of bull horns on "soap boxes!" Street corners/tracts! Stirs up fears of mockery/rejection... Witnessing: martureo: does mean sharing the word... *giving testimony!* All forms... all places... For some that stirs up fears from grade school/ college/ Toastmaster speeches...

Speaking out: martureo: includes the possibility of resistance: martus: martyr... But talking it out or not, for all of us, *witnessing* means, *living life in the open!* Must be prepared for the mockery/ resistance and rejection! Must know we can lose our "testimony" with the wrong reactions! Anger? "Overturned tables?" Fire from heaven? **[A: Luke 9.55]**

Sharing His Light... Handling Rejection! "He was despised and rejected of men..." Is 53.3 "The disciple is not above his master, if they called Me devilish how much more you?" **Mt 10.24** "They hated Me before they hated you. If you were of the world they would love you but because you are mine they will hate you... without a cause! **John 15.18,25** "I am sending you to turn them from darkness to light..." **Acts 26.18** "And the light shined in darkness but it did not understand it..." **John 1.5 "He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He didn't open His mouth..." v7** We are asked to offer a reason for the hope that is within us... **1Pet 3.15** But we do not have to defend ourselves *for having* faith! **Lk 12.11,12** "For I am not ashamed of the gospel that is powerful to save!" **Rom 1.16** Expect the Spirit of God to answer thru us when *defending the faith!* **Mk13.11 "When he was verbally abused, He didn't return abuse; when he suffered, he didn't become menacing; He committed himself to God who judges righteously! 1Pet2.23**

Jesus knew how to keep the eternal flame within Him burning brightly...

Jesus was never angry about rejection! Luke 19.41,42 And our reaction should be sadness and weeping, not anger and yelling! And it must include the employment of prayer!

Sharing His Light... Prayer! "It is written, My house will be called a house of prayer... but you have made it a den of thieves... and the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple and He healed them..." **Mt 21.12-14** The temple is first and foremost, us... And then what we are collectively! What kind of prayer? ALL! Intercession, petition, supplication, Holy Spirit prayer, fasting prayer, of faith... Not long prayers to be heard, not vain repetitions, not faith-less... **"He ever lives to make intercession for the saints."** **Hebrews 7.25** His prayer for us is not a mere intellectual approach... "He is the High Priest touched with the feelings of our infirmities!" **Heb 4.15** Represents us w/sympathy/compassion... His goal is our salvation/restoration! "I have prayed for you that your faith would not fail and when you are turned again that you will strengthen the brothers!" **Luke 22.32**

Sharing His Light... Prayer! EXERCISE: Midlothian Church plant... *Prepare the eyes/ears of the leadership!* Spending time spiritually mapping the city... find out who they are up against! Must hear the cries of the people – *mute or yelling!* *Prepare the hearts of the people!* While the whole world lays in darkness, there are specifics for each city/region! *Shake the dark heavens over the city!*

Jesus wants people saved and He told us to pray to the Lord of the Harvest to send laborers into the fields! Luke 10.2

“Who will go for us?” ‘Here I am, send me!’ Isaiah 6.8

Sharing His Light... One last characteristic, maybe the most important of all in this hour! **We must carry His “Not-My-Will-but-Yours-Be-Done...” gene!** “Submitting ourselves to God is our reasonable service... but it requires not being conformed to the world but being transformed by the renewing of our minds to prove the good, acceptable and perfect will of God!” **Rom 12.1,2** Worldlings, *saved or not*, will call you a fool for giving up your will to do His! Killing themselves!

Things are already tough and they are going to get ugly, fast! If there’s any “self” preservation... going to get creamed *on the mission!* “Into Your hands I commit my spirit!” If there’s any “fight for rights...” going to be “wrong” *doing the mission!* “Greater love has no man than to lay down his life for others...” If there’s any covering of the light... going to go dark *during the mission!* “Let your light shine before men!”

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