

140601 Generational Sunday Light

Introduction:

- In Luke 11:33-ff Jesus gives a parable about a lamp.
 - A parable essentially is a comparison, it's putting something alongside something else to compare. This is fundamental in our study of parables, that parables were originally to be heard and not to be read. What came out of that was the fact that the hearers of parables had to make an instant appraisal of what the teacher was saying. So there wasn't time for them to sit down with a black-and-white text and dissect each detail, and try and correspond it to spiritual truth, whilst we can do that now they did not have that privilege. They had to, in a moment, grasp what the speaker was saying, and because of that we need to remember that really in all the parables there is one main fundamental point that the Lord Jesus was getting across.
 - So Jesus is telling a story about a lamp/light and that story was to make a point that everyone who heard it could understand.
- *“No one, when he has lit a lamp, puts it in a secret place or under a basket, but on a lampstand, that those who come in may see the light. The lamp of the body is the eye. Therefore, when your eye is good, your whole body also is full of light. But when your eye is bad, your body also is full of darkness. Therefore take heed that the light which is in you is not darkness. If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, the whole body will be full of light, as when the bright shining of a lamp gives you light.”* (Luke 11:33–36, NKJV)
- *““You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”* (Matthew 5:14–16, NKJV)

1. Don't Be a Light in the Lamp Section

- a. Have you ever walked in the lighting section of Home Depot? There are so many lights there it was bright! But at my house the light did not work and it was dark. There were lots of lights at Home Depot but darkness at my house. Lights at Home Depot were not created to be put in a lamp section. They were created to be put on a stand in a dark place and then light for all enjoy. In many ways this is what church has become...a lighting section that is bright when we are altogether but failing to work at where placed.
 - i. What are some things I can do in the light but I cannot do in the dark? Read, sew, puzzles, work on things that require sight, etc. So it is obvious that we need light.
 - ii. Jesus himself said of Himself, “I am the light of the world.” So he came to be a light for us.
- b. But in Mt 5:14-16 Jesus is teaching that we are to be the light of the world. We are to be light for others. I believe Jesus wants us to be light for several reasons. To provide security, to help me find my way, to provide comfort, to help me see myself.
 - i. The closer I get to the lamp the more I come into the light. Ie. Turn off the lights and turn on a lamp. Walk closer to the lamp.
 1. This is what is supposed to happen when a sinner/unbeliever/friend gets closer to you. They are to be exposed to more light. If they are not then there is a problem with your lamp or “Silly you!” you are coving up the lamp, which defeats the purpose.
 2. **It makes no sense to cover the lamp.** The lamp helps me to see what I am doing. The light makes me feel safer. The light takes away confusion. Ie. Wrap the lamp so that the light goes up to the ceiling but not out. To many Christians are trying to live life like that. Be a light to Jesus but not to others. That would be like me taking this light out into a sunny day...I would not be able to tell if it was on or off. How is your light shining before men?

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3. People cover their lamps because they are embarrassed to shine for Jesus, they are afraid of offending friends, they are afraid of friends abandoning them. When we are more like the world than we are like Jesus, we are covering the lamp. I want to live in such a way that the closer people come the more light they are exposed to. What are your friends being exposed to?
- ii. I need the light to see where I am going. Ie. Pull out a head lamp. In Zambia we camped out in the bush. At night you need a lamp to see where you were going. You need a lamp so that you could avoid things you didn't want to see in the night...snakes, spiders,
 1. My head lamp/the Light also allows others to see where I am at and where they are going if they are following me. Knowing where you are going has much to do with your purpose. At the mission base in Zambia there are paths all over the base. But in the dark you need to see where you were going. If you were on the path at night you had a purpose for being there. The light gave you ability to see but it also gave the person with me the ability to see.
 2. **It makes no sense to cover the lamp.** People who do not know Jesus are lost in this life. They do not know where they are going. They need the light so that they can find their way. You are that light. It makes no sense to cover the the Light.
 3. God created man to be eternal. So if I do not know God in this life I am lost as I cross over into that life. I do not know how to get there. I do not know what I was made for. The Light helps me to see what I was created for. Maybe you are the light at the end of someones tunnel.
- iii. The closer I get to the lamp the warmer I feel. The lamp literally changes my condition. Ie. pull out a heat lamp. When we get freeze warnings here in Florida. I sometime put heat lamps on my fruit trees so that they do not freeze. My dad would put heat lamps in the farrowing house when we were having baby pigs born. They little baby pigs would curl up under the heat lamp.
 1. The heat lamp keeps me warm and anyone else who comes into the light.
 2. **It makes no sense to cover the lamp.** Most people are uncomfortable in their sin. Their life is empty, void of purpose. Guilt. Condemnation. It is like they are freezing in their sin but the light provide comfort/relief for them.
- iv. So the closer I get to the light the more light I am exposed to it. This is good! Don't cover it up. If I want men to find their way I am that light for them. This is good! Don't cover it up. If I want the conditions of mens hearts to be changed, I am that light to them. This is good. Don't cover it up.
- v. If we only shine on Sunday, we are like lights at the lighting section in Home Depot. Good for nothing. But if someone buys a light and uses the light it fulfills it's purpose. You are the light of the world.

2. If You Are Going To Be a Light Shine Where You Are Put

- a. Jesus is not dumb! He has placed you where light is needed! We see in our passage that a wise man put the lamp on a lamp stand so that the whole house gets lit up! You don't place it under a bowl to hide. That would be silly. When you gave your heart to Jesus, He had a place already prepared that He wanted you to shine in. You are not there by mistake. You are there to be light that shine for others to come into. Like John the Baptist father said of him. *To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace.*" Lk 1:79
- b. Know that everyone is not going to come into the light. *And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*²⁰ *For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.* Jn 3:19-20 Men who love evil will not like the light. So they will not come into it.
- c. But in that same passage Jesus also talks of those who love truth.

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- i. The word light comes from a Gr. word *kaio*: it means ‘to light or to burn’. Jesus was walking with two men on the road to Emmaus and in Luke 24:32 They declare, “*Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?*” We got in the presence of the light and He lit us up! Who are you lighting up?
- ii. The light gives direction. Listen to Ps 39:2-5 Davids heart burns within him but he is silent but he cant contain it. Why? He is being lit up by the Light! He cries out, Make me know the end of my days” He is looking for purpose. The light was leading him there. Ps 139 *in your book are all the days of my life*. This was Davids testimony later in his life.
- iii. The light reveals what is wrong with me and with others.
 1. Ie. a man come into the light and his fly is down. He is embarrassed a bit but happier he has been told.
 2. As I come into the light I see things that were not visible before. Maybe you put on a shirt that has a stain on it and you don’t realize it until you come into the light. When you do you change your shirt. Most people want to do what is right, they just need someone to shine as a light for them.
 3. Black light reveals urine of pets on carpet and furniture. When a homeowner sees it they usually want to deal with it right away.
- d. If you are going to be a light shine where Jesus puts you! Know that not everyone is going to be excited about you being a light because they like darkness. But understand this more!!! Most people want to be what they were created to be. The Light helps them find their purpose. Most people want to be better people and I can think of no better way than to let light up someone’s heart with Jesus. People that come into the light may be temporarily embarrassed by what they see in themselves but in the long run they will be very happy to have had you in their lives.

Conclusion:

- *If you are filled with light, with no dark corners, then your whole life will be radiant, as though a floodlight were filling you with light.*” Lk 11:36 NLT
 - Won’t you step into the light today?
 - Won’t you shine where Jesus has planted you.