

## Children's Moment

February 9, 2014

**Theme:** Letting Your Light Shine

**Object:** Lamp or Light Bulb

**Scripture:** **SLIDE** "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

(Matthew 5:16 NASB)

I am sure that you all know the song, "This Little Light of Mine." I want you to help me sing that song this morning. While we sing it, I'm going to hold this light up and let it shine all around. (Sing the song, but the light doesn't shine) **SLIDE**

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

I wonder what is wrong. My light isn't shining. (Someone will probably notice that it isn't plugged in.) Oh, here is the problem my light wasn't plugged in.

Let's try it again. (Sing the song, but the light still doesn't shine.) This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Well, I wonder what the problem is now? (Someone may suggest that the light wasn't turned on.) Oh, here is the problem my light wasn't turned on. Let's try it one more time. (Sing the song again and this time the light will shine.) This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. **Blank**

The Bible tells us that we should let our light shine. Before our light will shine, we must be plugged in and turned on. We must be plugged in to God's power supply and we must be turned on for Jesus. When we invite Jesus into our heart, we

have the power. When we come to Church to worship and praise Him and study His Word, we get turned on for Jesus. When we are plugged in and turned on, our light will shine.

Dear Father, we want our light to shine. We ask you to help us to remember that we need to be plugged in to your power and we need to be turned on for Jesus. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Won't let Satan blow it out. I'm gonna let it shine.

Won't let Satan blow it out. I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Let it shine til Jesus comes. I'm gonna let it shine.

Let it shine til Jesus comes. I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel, no! I'm gonna let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel, no! I'm gonna let it shine, Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Let it shine over the whole wide world, I'm gonna let it shine.

Let it shine over the whole wide world, I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine...

**Slide To Whom Shall We Go**

The Apostle John closes chapter 6 by dealing with two mind-bending revelations in the last five verses. In these verses we will explore the contrasts between Peter and Judas. The masses have left and instead of Jesus congratulating Himself that none of the twelve left with them - He quietly turns to face the twelve and asks, “You do not want to go away also, do you?” A simple question, but a question that must have cut deeply into the twelve’s minds and hearts. It is a question I have asked myself. Have I truly given myself so completely to Jesus that no matter what happens I will not desert Him? I pray that God will grant me the ability in all situations to say as Peter did, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. Jesus’ question and Peter’s answer has echoed down through generations of history and they are just as important today as they were 2000 years ago. There are those in the church who are not saved and only Jesus is able to see into their hearts and know if they are deceived by the devil or worst yet, if they are in truth working to destroy Christ’s church as agents of the devil. Even that last day and at dinner that night we know from the other gospels that Jesus spoke of Peter denying Him and Judas betraying Him. So there we see the twelve having spent 3 + years with Christ and when Jesus says during dinner that there is a betrayer among them, the disciples respond by saying, **Slide** “Lord is it I?” They still questioned if their faith was strong enough and they still did not know who it was among them that would betray Jesus. Just like the disciples we search our hearts and ask are we really committed to Jesus – as my grandfather use to say, “Come hell or high water” will we remain faithful? **Blank**

Another reason this question is relevant is that we all, including Peter, and me and

you have fallen short of the glory of Christ in some ways for we are weak at times. Look at Peter, there is evidence that he is “born again”, if he were not, the Spirit would not have brought him to the point where he could say, “[Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God.](#)” I pray you and I are like Peter, after times of weakness, we repent and like Peter resolve ourselves and gain spiritual strength to become a bold witness for Jesus. **We can never go back!** Remember when Christian was face to face with the devil in Bunyan’s story of his travels to the celestial city in **Slide** *Pilgrim’s Progress*. Christian thought how dearly he would love to go back and avoid conflict. However, when he thought of his armor, he realized that he had no armor on his back. He had a shield, a breastplate, a helmet and a sword to fight and go forward. If he turned to escape he would expose his back and the devil would surely slay him with his spear. He knew no matter how difficult it would be he must fight and move forward – so he resolved himself to fight and he fought on and gained victory. Think of this when you are discouraged and want to retreat. Never retreat, never give up, never surrender – but press on to victory. **Blank**

Peter said to Jesus, “[Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.](#)” Honestly I do not know were one would go to escape Jesus, even if you wanted to go back to the empty things of your past, one cannot escape Jesus. If you returned to your former life to the unsaved people, they would be suspicious for they would know you had claimed Jesus. Remember Peter; I love Peter, I think in some ways I am like him. Peter denied Jesus with oaths and cursing’s. He had just spent three years under the teachings and spiritual tutor of Jesus. Even though Peter temporarily failed he was not the same person he was before he met Jesus. Because he was not the same person the people ferretted him out saying to him, **Slide** “[Surely you too are one of them; for even the way you talk gives you away.](#)” (Matthew 26:73 NASB) In

the second chapter of Acts we find Peter recovered and standing boldly preaching Christ to those in Jerusalem in verse 38 Peter proclaims, **Slide** “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Like Peter we cannot change the past, but God has given us this day and tomorrow, if we remain, to stand boldly and proclaim Christ to all who will listen. **Blank**

Let me be frank, my beloved, we have nowhere else to go. Canyon Bible is our community. Who of the unsaved would want us after we have been with Jesus? Jesus was not wanted by the masses; in fact they killed Him. The followers of Jesus have been martyred down through history. More Christians were martyred for their faith in the 100 years of the 20th century than the 1900 years prior. The 21<sup>st</sup> century is not starting off any better – not only are Christians paying a price in the Middle East, Asia and Africa, but the opposition to Christians is growing in Europe and America. Together we can stand for Christ, but separately they will pick us off one-by-one.

Peter says in verse 69 “We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God.” Look at the order Peter uses in these last couple of verses. Peter is certain that *Jesus had the* “words of eternal life.” This is followed by “We have believed and have come to know.” The order is; first one is to belief and then certainty or having **come to know** follows. This is the divine order of God for true understanding in spiritual things.

This runs counter to the natural man or unsaved man’s way of doing things. From a human point of view who has ever heard of believing in something in order to be sure of it. We want to test something before we believe. To believe in a person or law of science, or buying a car, we must test it first. God reverses this order. Lets

look to the scriptures for clarity. King David said, **Slide** *"I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.* (Psalm 27:13 NASB) David believed before God acted. Jesus used this believing first and then *coming to know* when He talked with Martha saying, **Slide** *"Did I not say to you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"* (John 11:40 NASB) Believe first and then know and see. Hebrews says it well, **Slide** *"By faith we understand* (What do we understand?) **Slide** *that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible."* (Hebrews 11:3 NASB) There is a simple reason God has reversed the natural mans way of thinking. The reason is that the ways of God is beyond us - beyond our ability to understand and test. We will begin to know and understand God's ways only as we believe in God, trust in God and have faith in God and this will begin the process of understanding God, coming to know Him. Do we come to know who Jesus is by hearing debates between theologians and secular intellects? No. We come to know whom Christ is because the Holy Spirit has regenerated our souls and we hear the Word of God preached and we read the Word of God and these tell us who Jesus is. If we took the approach of trusting in men in this manner it would be foolhardy. Just look at the people elected to office by the masses. However, dealing with God the Creator of the universe is not done with man's logic. If people approach Christ using man's logic and not the testimony of God, then God has something to say about this. If you want to follow along I will be reading from **Slide** 1 John, chapter 5 beginning in verse 9. *"If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater; for the testimony of God is this, that He has testified concerning His Son.*<sup>10</sup> *The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son.*<sup>11</sup> *And the testimony is this, that God has given us*

eternal life, and this life is in His Son. <sup>12</sup> He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.” This is an important statement to understand. It gives us an insight into the heart of God. God is telling us He wants to be believed and He makes it clear we should believe Him because of who He is.

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After all - look at the faith we put in people. We have faith in people we do not even know to stay on their side of the road or stop at the traffic light. We trust and have faith in people we do not know when we go sign a contract to buy a house. If we are able to have faith in people who are at times untrustworthy – well then, it only makes sense we trust in God who is completely trustworthy and consistently true. The question Jesus posed to Peter and is posing to each of us today is, “Do you believe?” First do you believe in God, secondly, do you believe in God’s Son and thirdly, do you believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God? Peter’s statement “**You have words of eternal life. We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God.**” did not come from seeing the miracles Jesus performed – the turning of the water into wine, healing the sick or multiplying the loaves and the fish, but from hearing and believing the **Slide** “**words of eternal life**” spoken by Jesus **Slide** “**the Holy One of God.**” **Blank**

At this point the Apostle John has written that most of the followers have left, the twelve remain and Peter has spoken a great confession and by default a confession for the other disciples. This would be a great place for John to end chapter six. However, John is realist and does not only show the growth of faith among the twelve disciples, but he now deals the emergence of hate toward Jesus. The irony is that Peter has spoken on behalf of the twelve saying we believe and know. But Jesus sees into the hearts of men and knows what Peter does not. Jesus responds to Peter

saying, “Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?” The Apostle John does not write concerning the shock this must have been to Peter and the other disciples. Jesus does not use the word betray here but it is exactly what Judas will do later. At this point the question often asked is, **Slide** “Why Judas?” This is a great question that deserves an answer. I will attempt to answer this and other elements about Judas in our time remaining.

If we back up to verse 64, which I skipped when we studied that set of verses earlier, I will now deal with both Jesus’ comment and the Apostle John’s explanation that gives a foreshadow for what we are now going to address in our passage this morning. Jesus said, “But there are some of you who do not believe.” John then writes that Jesus said this because “Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was that would betray Him.” The first part of these verses is plural “there are some of you” and then “who they were who did not believe” and the ending is singular concerning “who it was that would betray Him.” As we saw many did not believe and when Jesus’ teachings made it clear who He was and what it meant to be His follower and most of the followers left. The twelve remained and one, Judas, was an unbeliever and betrayer.

Knowing what Jesus knew; that Judas of Iscariot was an unbeliever and in truth an agent of Satan who would betray Him, why did Jesus choose Judas who was the only one of the twelve that was not Galilean? Judas was the son of Simon Iscariot. Iscariot means ‘man of Kerioth’, which is a village in southern Judah as explained in Josiah chapter 15. Why did Jesus choose Judas? Well, the easiest answer is that the **Slide** scriptures foretold of Judas and Jesus knew Judas’ heart and chose him to fulfill the scriptures. Jesus was talking to God His Father saying, **Slide** “While I was with them, (speaking of the twelve) I was keeping them in Your name which You have



given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished **but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.**" (John 17:12 NASB) Jesus here is referring to Psalm 41 and other passages in the Old Testament. God ordained that Jesus would be betrayed in order to effect salvation for those sinners who believe in Jesus. It is written in Hebrews as to why Jesus came to earth, **Slide** "THEN I SAID, 'BEHOLD, I HAVE COME (IN THE SCROLL OF THE BOOK IT IS WRITTEN OF ME) TO DO YOUR WILL, O GOD.'" (Hebrews 10:7 NASB) Here the writer is quoting Psalm 40. The will of God for Jesus is written throughout both the Old and New Testaments. **Blank** Jesus responds to Peter and the other disciples here in verse 70 "Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?" John clarifies what Jesus is saying by writing in verse 71, "Now He meant Judas *the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him.*" Having Judas with Him for 3 years certainly must have been a trial for Jesus. Judas was a constant reminder of His pending betrayal and crucifixion. During these three years Jesus knew Judas' heart and that he was a tool of Satan – **Slide** Satan's plan would fail and God's plan would succeed. This surely was a test of Jesus' willingness to submit to the Father's will – a test that Jesus passed.

Another reason Jesus chose **Slide** Judas was that it provided an impartial witness to the Divinity of Jesus the Christ. **Slide** A. W. Pink wrote of Jesus, "His Father, His forerunner, His saved apostles, bore testimony to His perfections; but lest it should be thought that these were *ex parte* witnesses (*Latin meaning they are all in this together or are one party*), God saw to it that an *enemy* (*Judas*) should also bear testimony. Here was a man that was 'a devil'; a man who was in the closest possible touch with the life of Christ, both in public and private; a man who would have seized eagerly on the slightest flaw, if it had been possible to fine one; but it was not; Judas said, 'I have sinned by betraying innocent blood' (Matthew 27:4 NASB), Judas was an

unsought testimony of an impartial witness.” Judas the enemy of God bore witness to Jesus’ as the Messiah.

**Slide** The choice of Judas also gave occasion to uncover the awfulness of sin. Judas spent 3 years with Jesus observing great teaching that could only have come from God. Miracles that only God had the power to perform, revelations of wisdom beyond human knowledge, he saw the total lack of sin in Jesus’ life and he saw a man who put the good of others before His own. Judas saw Jesus’ character; one without pride, anger, lust, a man of gentle determination and a man who exhibited all the “Fruit of the Spirit.” Yet, Judas was able to keep his motives private and focused on Jesus’ destruction – what a hard and sinful heart Judas had. This is how terrible sin is – it is like an all-consuming cancer just below the surface and the only one who can see it is God. People are skillful in hiding their true thoughts and emotions from other people. This is how terrible and self-destructive sin is. Judas’ sin was exposed to the world by the scriptures in order to teach the horror of sin. Sin and redemption are connected – we will only begin to understand the height and depth of God’s divine love once we see the nature of sin, not just Judas’, but all mankind’s sin - for which Christ’s blood was shed.

**Slide** Judas also provides the sinner with a solemn warning. A person may experience the closest possible contact with Jesus and still not come to Him for salvation. Look at the many during the time of Christ and the many today that have heard the teachings of Christ, witnessed miracles, have seen the change that Christ makes in the lives of others and have even been raised in Christian homes, and yet, yet they do not believe. The faith of those around you will not save you – you yourself must believe! It has been the same since Adam and Eve - **Slide** Satan promises the best, **Slide** but pays with the worst; **Slide** he promises honor and **Slide**

pays with disgrace; **Slide** he promises pleasure and **Slide** pays with pain; **Slide** he promises profit and **Slide** pays with loss; **Slide** he promises life and **Slide** pays with death. We see this plainly in the life and death of Judas. Only those who trust in and believe in Jesus as their Savior escape Satan.

**Slide** Lastly, the presence of Judas among the twelve shows us that we may expect to find hypocrites and agents of the devil among those who call themselves Christian. The twelve paid a price to follow Jesus; they left their homes, their jobs, no sure future, no assurance of food or shelter, long hard journeys and preaching Jesus' gospel often to people who opposed Jesus. Think of this - Judas did all these things as one of the twelve. The other disciples did not suspect him of being a betrayer. Yet Judas was working against Jesus, he was a false friend to both Jesus and the other eleven. Judas may have fooled the others, but not Jesus. There are those who will fool us as well, but Jesus knows their heart. Maybe I am fooled, but I do not think we have any Judases among us. However, there is without a doubt Judases in the Christian community working for the evil one. Jesus warned us to watch for these false Christians, He said, **Slide** "Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves." (Matthew 7:15 NASB) As a body we will see through such people, even when they are able to pull the wool over one person's eyes they will not be able to do this to everyone, and not to us as a community.

Finally, let me take a moment and address the positive side of evil, if I can refer to it as such. **Slide** Sin and evil are radically different from God the Father, Jesus, God the Son – sin is the opposite of God and this shows how amazing God is and our desperate need for salvation. The fact that God should appoint a 'devil' to be one of the twelve, a close companion of Jesus – that God would select the 'son of perdition'

to Jesus' inner circle is incredible. Yet, this is exactly what God chose to do for it served His plan for the redemption and salvation for those He has chosen. We need not feel sorry for Judas for his heart was hardened towards God and he was an enemy of God. What we need to do is humble ourselves before a holy God that uses all things to fulfill His plan for our salvation.

Today we have looked at two men - **Slide** Peter and Judas. Both walked with Christ for three years. Peter makes a great confession showing his love for Jesus and that he is called by God and born again. In Judas, on the other hand, we have seen a disturbing revelation of sin and evil, and that he was an enemy of God. Both gave evidence of interest in religion – one growing past man-made religion and even through spiritual ups and downs grows to become a pillar of faith. The other is exposed and recorded in history as an agent of Satan. The question for us is “Why do you claim Jesus?” Is He your Lord and Savior or was He a man who offered false hope? Are you a Christian because of your love and surrender to Jesus? The road for the true disciples of Jesus is not easy, but it is a road that leads to the cross and at the foot of the cross we find hope eternal and beyond the cross there is glory – glory beyond our imagination. “To whom shall we go?” **Slide** Which road will you travel?