

Children's Moment

May 11, 2014

Theme: Show Your Love By Your Actions

Object: Mother's Day Card


Scripture: "By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (1 John 4:9-11 NASB)

-S- I am sure that all of you know that it is Mother's Day. Did you give your mother a card or a present for Mother's Day? This Mother's Day card says, "Mom, I love you!" Do you think your mother likes to hear you tell her that you love her? Of course she does! But do you know what your mother would like even more? She would like for you to show her that you love her.

What are some ways you can show your mother that you love her? Well, you might help out around the house. You could clean your room or empty the trash. You could show her that you love her by obeying her when she tells you to do something. You can show her you love her by getting along with your brothers and sisters. It is easy to tell your mom that you love her, but if you really love her, your actions will show it!

Do you think that God likes to hear us tell Him that we love Him? I know He does. But He likes it even better when our actions show Him that we love Him. How do we do that? The Bible tells us that, "God showed his love for us by sending His one and only Son so that we might live through him." It goes on to say that, "since God loved us so much, we ought to love one another." One of the best ways to show

our love for God is to love one another. Yes, God likes to hear us say, "I love you," but He would rather see our actions say, "I love you."

 As we celebrate Mother's Day, let's tell Mom that we love her, but more important, let's remember to show her that we love her. And as we worship today, let's tell God we love Him, but more important, let's remember to show Him we love Him by loving one another.

Dear Lord, we have come to your house of worship today to say, "I love you." Help us to get out of here today and show you that we love you by our actions. Amen.

Now, go back to your mom and to her, "I love you."

Before we start our study of God's word this morning – that of Jesus as the “Light of the world” I would like to take the time to recognize a secondary light of God here on earth. It is a light that shines into every person's life. Brother Shawn will now read to you a poem.

-S- One bright and shining light
That taught me wrong from right
I found in my mother's eyes.

Those baby tales she told
That road all paved with gold
I found in my mother's eyes.

-S- Just like a wand'ring sparrow
One lonely soul, I walked the straight and narrow,
To reach my goal – to be -
The light of my mother's eyes

God's gift sent from above
A real unselfish love
O found in my mother's eyes.

In Proverbs chapter 31 King Lemuel (meaning belonging to God and is another name for King Solomon) writes of his mother, Bathsheba – Brother David will now

read – **-S-** “Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she smiles at the future. She opens her mouth in wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and bless her; her husband *also*, and he praises her, saying: ‘Many daughters have done nobly, but you excel them all.’ Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, *but* a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised. (Proverbs 31:25-30) **-S-** Men we will always love our mothers, for they

gave us life and taught us as boys. **-S-** But, I have to tell you, the gift of a godly wife is a gift that carries a man through his entire adult life. I have been richly blessed with a godly wife, for she fears the Lord and is to be praised. All of us - we are more than we would have been because of our mothers and as men our lives are much, much more because of our wives.

Pass out gifts

Please stand for the reading of God's Word – Exodus 13:17-22 by **Brother Larry**

Message - John 8:12

Sermon #50

Open in prayer

-S- **Light of the World**

God is a God of purpose and order in all things and I believe this includes the placing of our scripture verse this morning. It is right that this verse twelve, where Jesus teaches the people that He is the **"Light of the world,"** follows immediately after the story of the woman taken in adultery and used by the Pharisees in an attempt to trap Jesus. After their evil plan fails it is the perfect time for Jesus to reveal that He is the **"Light of the world."** The story of this woman and the treachery of her accusers is a revelation of how dark man's sin can be and often is. The purity, compassion and the light of righteousness of Jesus shines through and overwhelms their evil. So it is natural and timely that Jesus now says, **-S-** **"I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."** (John 8:12 NASB) It is my desire this morning to show how this verse relates to the Old Testament and to us this day. Jesus continues to teach us through the Word as He did here in the gospel according to John.

We are not sure where Jesus is, but there is a strong possibility that Jesus was doing what He normally did when He was in Jerusalem. Back in verse 2 of chapter 8, John tells us what Jesus' routine was, **-S-** "Early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people were coming to Him; and He sat down and *began to teach them.*" A. W. Pink said concerning Jesus turning His attention from the Pharisees back to the people, **-S-** "Without exhibiting the slightest perturbation, refusing to be turned aside from the task He was engaged in, He returned at once to the teaching of the people. **-S-** How differently we act under provocation! To us disturbances are only too frequently perturbances. If only we realized that everything which enters our life is ordered by God, and we acted in accord with this, then should we maintain our composure and conduct ourselves with unruffled serenity. **-S-** But only one perfect life has been lived on this earth; and our innumerable imperfections only serve to emphasize the uniqueness of *that life.*" Jesus gives us a model of how to deal with the unsaved – straight forward with calmness, but not letting anything sway us from the mission Jesus has called us to – worshipping God and sharing the gospel with the lost that are in desperate need of Christ.

Jesus' pronouncement that He is the **-S-** "Light of the world" should come as no surprise, for this is not the first time in John's gospel that this is written. In the opening of this great gospel account John wrote these powerful words, **-S-** "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. **-S-** ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. ⁵ The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it." (John 1:1-5) Is this not exactly what

we saw in this story of the adulteress woman? Jesus' light shown into the darkness and the hearts of these men and they were dark in their sin. Their souls were spiritually dead, and they did not comprehend the light of Jesus. This story is the fulfillment of what John recorded Jesus saying in chapter 3, **-S-** "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. **-S-**²⁰ For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God." (John 3:19-21) These Pharisees loved their position, status and power in the Jewish society more than they loved God and they **-S-** "loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil." As Jesus ministry progressed their hatred of Him grew, thus living out what Jesus said in verse 20, **-S-** "everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed." So they plotted in secret and waited.

The Apostle John opened his gospel account saying Jesus is the "Light of men" and he continues to refer to Jesus as light. John has written in many verses about Jesus being Light, but now for the first time Jesus says of Himself, that He is the "Light of the world." So here in this verse it is revealed why John had been referring to Jesus as the **-S-** "Light of men" and "The Light shines in the darkness" the Apostle opened his gospel account with these powerful words and imagery because Jesus had revealed to John that He was the "Light of the world." John makes a point of making this important aspect of the gospel known and clear.

So at this time John records in chapter eight the second of the great "I AMs" in his gospel. These I "AMs" tell us much - Jesus said, **-S-** "I am the bread of life; he

who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.”

(John 6:35) **-S-** “**I am the door** of the sheep. **I am the door**; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.” (John 10:7

& 9) **-S-** “**I am the good shepherd**; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. **I am the good shepherd**, and I know My own and My own know Me.”

(John 10:11 & 14) **-S-** “**I am the resurrection** and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies.” (John 11:25) **-S-** “**I am the way, and the truth, and the**

life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.” (John 14:6) **-S-** “**I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.**” (John 15:1) What a picture these “**I AMs**”

paint of Jesus as the Son of God. Now I want to add to this painting, hopefully adding depth of our understanding, of Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

-S- Cloud – Fire – Light

When Jesus says He is “**the Light of the world**” one might naturally think of the **-S-**

light from our solar system’s Sun. We could be encouraged to do this by what the

prophet Malachi wrote, **-S-** “**But for you who fear My name, the sun of**

righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip

about like calves from the stall.” (Malachi 4:2) One can feel the warmth and

healing the sun can bring and at times it does make us want to skip around or

dance, just like a calf or young child. The prophet Isaiah said, **-S-** “**... I will also**

make You a light of the nations so that My salvation may reach to the end of the

earth.” (Isaiah 49:6) Jesus is the “**light of the nations**” and the long awaited

Messiah and it is He who will take God’s salvation beyond the nation of Israel to

“**reach to the end of the earth.**” The scripture reading today was from Exodus

because I believe there is a relationship between Jesus’ statement to the people,

-S- “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life” and the events of the exodus and much contained in the Old Testament. **-B-** Jesus is speaking to Jewish people, who know the history of the Jewish nation and the exodus story. Jesus spoke these words shortly after the Feast of Tabernacles and in the courtyard of the temple. Remember each morning during this feast the priests, followed by the crowd, would parade to the Pool of Siloam and fill a gold pitcher with water. They then returned to the temple and poured out the water on the Alter of Sacrifice. As the priest did this - the people sang and chanted scripture, such as **-S-** “Therefore you will joyously draw water from the springs of salvation.” (Isaiah 12:3) And, **-S-** “Tremble, O earth, before the Lord, before the God of Jacob, who turned the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a fountain of water.” (Psalm 114:7-8) These verses show that this ceremony was to remember God’s provision of water for the people of Israel during the years of their wilderness wandering and God was also using it to point forward to the spiritual water that men would draw from God through the Messiah and His gift of the Holy Spirit. God spoke to Moses, **-S-** “Behold, I (*God*) will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink.” (Exodus 17:6) It was just after the completion of this water ceremony that Jesus stood and cried out, **-S-** “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’” (John 7:37-38) Jesus was saying that this water ceremony is – was a foreshadow of Him. He is the water to be poured out on the Alter of Sacrifice, for He is the Messiah – He is the sacrifice to be poured out for the salvation of those God calls. **-B-**

The second ceremony performed during the Feast of Tabernacles was at sundown each night great lamps were lit in the courts of the temple. **-S-** These lamps of fire were said to be so large and great that they gave light to every quarter of Jerusalem. These lamps were meant to recall the great pillar of cloud and fire that accompanied the Israelites in the wilderness. **-S-** The cloud stood between Pharaoh's armies and the Israelites and enabled them to cross the Red Sea. The pillar of cloud and fire both protected the people and guided them through the wilderness. While the people lived and traveled in the hot desert of the wilderness the pillar of cloud gave them shade and the pillar of fire at night gave them warmth and light. I believe that Jesus is clearly referring to this lighting of the lamps and therefore, the pillar of cloud and fire when He said He was **-S-** **"I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."** It is Jesus, the Son of God, that is both a pillar of cloud protecting believers from their enemies and the pillar of fire and light that gives warmth and guides the people of God.

I believe this bringing together of the imagery of the Feast of Tabernacles, the water in the wilderness with the water ceremony and the lighting of the lamps and the pillar of fire and Jesus as the **"Light of the world"** is supported by the striking Old Testament imagery John uses in succession in chapters 6, 7 and 8. In chapter 6 we see Jesus is the new manna sent down from heaven for God's people to feed upon - **-S-** **"I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst."** (John 6:35) In chapter seven after the water ceremony Jesus stands and cries out, **-S-** **"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'"** (John 7:37-38) Just as water

flowed out of a rock in the desert to quench the thirst of millions so too Jesus quenches the thirst of many more millions whose hearts were of stone and He makes them into hearts of flesh and by His faith given - people believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior. Out of Jesus **-S-** “will flow rivers of living water” to quench our spiritual thirst and God uses this spiritual water to enable us to share the gospel to quench the thirst of those seeking Jesus. We know this by what Paul tells us in his letter to the Ephesians, **-S-** “... you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light.” (5:8) King Solomon wrote and collected the proverbs, **-S-** “The words of a man’s mouth are deep waters; the fountain of wisdom is a bubbling brook.” (Proverbs 18:4) Now here in chapter eight Jesus is the pillar of cloud and fire – He is the **-S-** “Light of the world.” We see in the New Testament that “Light” is one of three elements that God is said to be – In John we are told “God is spirit”, Jesus said, **-S-** “God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (4:24) In 1 John the apostle tells us **-S-** “The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.” (4:8) and **-S-** “ ... God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.” (1:5) Lets take a little time to focus on the pillar of cloud and fire to more fully understand this second great “I AM” from the gospel according to John.

-S- God’s Presence

As one considers this pillar of cloud and fire it is easy to see that it symbolized God and His presence among the people. It was so massive that it was not natural, but had to be supernatural. In an age where light at night was not common outside of small lamps and fires the light given to cover an area occupied by over 2 million people could only have been of God. The first mention of this pillar in Exodus tells us, **-S-** “The LORD was going before them in a pillar of cloud by

day to lead them on the way, and in a pillar of fire by night to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.” (Exodus 13:21-22)

We also know from the scriptures that God spoke from within the pillar. During the 40 years of wandering the people were always aware of God’s presence because of this pillar. **-B-**

Now we move ahead in time, a time long since the pillar of cloud and fire and the presence of God had departed Israel, the time that Jesus walks the earth. The pillar had once filled the Holy of Holies, but now it is empty and Jesus stands at this spiritually empty temple, a temple left with only ritual. Because of man’s sinful and fallen nature we understand that God calls not everyone, some people change their ways when they see the Light of God - Jesus, others change only when they feel the heat and some change not at all. So now here at this temple where God was once present, but long departed, Jesus now stands and says, **-S-** **“I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”** Jesus is saying, I am the light of God, I am the pillar of cloud and fire of God, I am God with you. Here once again God is in your midst. Some believed and were saved. I tell you God is here in our midst – do you believe? The Apostle John and many were now able to say, **-S-** **“The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”** (John 1:14) Please stand with me, if you believe and let us say these words together from the depths of our hearts - **“The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”** Please be seated.

Jesus, God the Son, says He is our pillar – **-S-** the Light of the world, He then claims three things for the people He stood before, just as God the Father had provided for the Jews in the wilderness and Jesus provides for us this very day. **-S-** Jesus - **-S-** is with us, in our midst – **-S-** He is our source of protection – **-S-** He guides His people through the wilderness of a corrupt and lost world. However, we must understand Jesus does these things only for those who are called to be the children of God and have given their lives to Him by faith. Jesus was clear when He said, **-S-** “I have come *as* Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness.” (John 12:46) He was also clear in saying, **-S-** “He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.” Do you have faith in Jesus as the Christ? Are you following Him? Time is sifting quickly through history – your history – do not delay – whom will you choose to serve? Will you serve the **-S-** Light of the world or the prince of darkness? These are your only two choices.