



## The Gospel According to Luke Wk. 57 “Living in Marvelous Light!” By Pastor Jody May

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### Luke 11:33-36 ESV

#### The Light in You

<sup>33</sup> “No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a basket, but on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. <sup>34</sup> Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness. <sup>35</sup> Therefore be careful lest the light in you be darkness. <sup>36</sup> If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, it will be wholly bright, as when a lamp with its rays gives you light.”

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**Introduction: Light Reveals and Darkness Conceals – Story about that.**

**In stories walking into the influence of the dark always confuses the individual and taints what they see.**

#### **1. The difficulty in following Jesus is not a lack of signs, or light, but is due to our blindness.**

<sup>33</sup> “No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a basket, but on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light.”

Last week, right after Jesus’ announcement that this evil generation will receive no more sign other than Jonah, He makes this announcement on the **purpose** of light. And if you would remember, we left last week by pulling that material together in a way to suggest that there will be those that can see the sign of Jonah and those that can’t and we differentiated those two sides like this - Those that “Believe in a God” and those that “Believe God”. Those that see the sign of Jonah and are convinced of Jesus; they repent, and they follow Him. Then there are those that lack faith, they are blind, and can’t believe in Him.

This statement about the nature of light *is in conjunction* with those that can’t see the sign of Jonah. The reason the signs of Jesus have not been understood is not because of a lack of light, they have been perfectly clear and lit. This whole topic of sight actually started a few sermons back when Jesus was accused of working



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for the devil when he had just cast out a demon, there were a group of people that asked this:

<sup>16</sup> while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a **sign** from heaven.

To which Jesus responded later in v. 29:

<sup>29</sup> ... “This generation is an evil generation. It seeks for a **sign**...

Again, this brings us to this statement on light in vs. 33. *No one sets out a light without the purpose of using it*, that doesn’t make sense – **Jesus is talking about Himself**. Which when you put it altogether means, **the problem is NOT that you didn’t get a sign(s) from me, the problem is that you are BLIND to it! The LIGHT is shining right before your eyes!**

Jesus had been working in ministry for almost three years! Look at the track record alone on healings. Leprosy conquered, lame walk, blind restored, mute can talk, and it was done in record numbers. They kept asking for a bigger sign but for blind people **the issue is not the sign the issue is that your blind!**

### **John 3:19-20 ESV**

<sup>19</sup> And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light **because their works were evil**. <sup>20</sup> For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light. **Let his works should be exposed.**” - Jesus

The problem is that the Pharisees are consumed with jealousy; fear of losing their position in culture, fear of losing the good seats in the synagogue, the fear of losing a way of life, and because of fear they were now ok talking about murder of Jesus, totally overlooking the sin in their heart. They chose not to come to the light because **they wanted** to go through with their plans of **assassination**.

Maybe in your life right now, you’re in a dangerous place. You have been trying to follow God for a while, you have been playing at this church thing for a while, but you are still having a problem **“believing God.”** Perhaps it’s not because the



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sign of Jonah is not blatant enough but perhaps there is sin in your heart that you are just not done with and it makes you repulsed at the idea of His light!

- There’s someone you need to forgive but you can’t let it go because it means no more power over that person.
- There’s lust in your heart you won’t address because it would mean changing up your routines.
- There’s greed that controls where you spend time and money but you like your life the way it is.

For us we all fall short because we think our sin delivers us that which makes a difference in a bleak existence, happiness. But the Gospel tells another story:

### John 8

**<sup>12</sup> “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in the darkness, but will have the light of life.”**

The contrast is that a life in the dark is really a **spiritually dead life**, a life that can only be **excited** by things of the **flesh**. BUT JESUS offers a life lit by His Glory, to be spiritually alive, a life where you don’t need the things of the flesh.

If you haven’t been affected by the life of Jesus yet let me tell you as a follower, and as someone that has known all the worldly pleasures as well, it is not that the sign is not large enough, you’re just blind.

### **2. Don’t be quick to trust your enlightenment but test it against the True Light.**

**<sup>34</sup> Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness. <sup>35</sup> Therefore be careful lest the light in you be darkness.**

The eye is not the generator of the light, but it is the point through which all light passes through. Your eye is an amazing tool. This past week I had to go to the eye doctor and of course my doctor is pretty good about telling me things I already know. “Jody you have some damage to your nerve in your left eye.” “Really, I



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wondered where that blind spot came from?” Seriously, I have glaucoma, and there is a small blind spot in the left part of my eye, and by closing one eye at a time I can tell that the light in my left eye is not as bright as the one in my right. When you look at the optic nerve on my left eye it actually looks bigger and rounder but what is happening is that the part that relays the images to my brain is slowly dying.

The only way I knew I was in trouble is thankfully both eyes didn’t fail at the same time. Because my right eye was still healthy so I could compare it to the vision in my left and see that the light was untainted, it was brighter, and in focus so I could read with it still.

Here’s the reality though when it comes to our spiritual eyes, what Jesus is talking about here.

We are blind, spiritually dead at birth, and because of that there is no way inside of you to determine that. There is nothing to compare it to, you don’t even know you need help. Your world, even though filled with physical activities is a dead one, that is the physical life has no connection to the Kingdom and what comes after this world, it truly is a wasted life. And when Jesus showed up on the scene here’s what He found:

### **Luke 6 – Blind leading the Blind**

<sup>39</sup> “Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? <sup>40</sup> A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.

He found the blind trying to teach the blind, spiritually dead, that’s why Jesus had to come.

### **John 1**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>4</sup> In him was **life** and the **life** was the **light** of men.



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This Word that produces life, the true light is now available to all but found in only in one place, the Bible:

### Psalm 119:105 ESV

Your **word** is a **lamp** to my feet and a **light** to my path.

At this point you may be, “I got ya Pastor Jody, read the Bible, and it will light up my life. Yes, BUT if you are blind it helps a lot to have other people around you whose spiritual eyes are improving everyday as well. Because it is hard to compare, it is hard to judge, your opinion with what the Bible says without another Christian’s view. God has provided us multiple sets of eyes around here that look at God’s Word, that have different points of view, that in a church should agree doctrinally, that help you to read, believe, and see the light of life better. Then to add to it since we all know how to read, pick out a reformed theologian this year and read about what they discovered, what their life entailed, and how they saw the truths of God.

Remember family, if you are trying to decipher the world on your own without God’s Word then you have probably **allowed other blind people to lead you**. If you are going to the Word then good for you, but without help from others your recovery is a lot slower because you have nothing to compare your findings with. But when you add God’s Word with the input from other in this church family you are well on your way to recovery.

Remember not to be too quick to trust your own sense of enlightenment but **test it against what God’s Word** says along with the **Wisdom of other Christians** that have a track record of **understanding** and **obeying** it.

### 3. The True Light will work towards saving us completely.

<sup>36</sup> If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, it will be wholly bright, as when a lamp with its rays gives you light.”

The light of Jesus is something truly wonderful to behold. This light once upon entering your spiritual nervous system doesn’t just stay in the brain but it affects



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everything. It doesn't stop in your mind for you to decipher what is good, what you like, and what you want to keep. No, it effects your heart, **the light of Christ births FAITH and AFFECTIONS** and it is the heart that produces the actions of your life. Jesus said in Mat. 15:18 what comes out of our mouth comes from the heart and it either condemns us or justifies who we are. The heart lit up by the light of Christ is a resurrected heart which then produces actions that have eternal implications.

When influenced by this light one stops trying to figure out how to be evangelistic because it just happens. The light is changing us at a wholistic level, those that were once silent about their conditions are now sharing it with others:

### **1 Peter 2:9**

**But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession. To proclaim the virtues for Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.**

We as a people, who were once not a people, have been made into **THE PEOPLE**. Jesus has called us out of darkness making us all **PROCLAIMERS** because it has changed our affections for Him, of who He is and what He has done. If the world looks bleak to you right now, if you are down about where your life has you at this moment, it is because you are not looking at the Him. Your fear of the future, what you may lose, what you may not obtain through your efforts has you walking in the dark. **The World uses Fear to get you hypnotized to train you to react to what you see as a danger but the Gospel is that God uses that same fear to get you praying so at the revelation of Christ fear is lit up and only Jesus remains.** That is why 'if' we have been truly affected by the Marvelous light of Jesus then the only option left is to declare it to the world out of joy!

I want to leave us this morning also with a warning. If we continue to reject the light, there is a point when the offer is removed. Rev. 3 the church of Laodicea is luke-warm and along with Jesus' threat to spit them out he gives this counsel:

### **Revelation 3:17-18 ESV**



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**<sup>17</sup> For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, **blind**, and naked. <sup>18</sup> I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and **salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.****

This morning is there something in your life that keeps you from not confessing your need of Him? Is it fear of not being able to live as you want, or is it that you have become accustomed to trusting how your eye lights up the world instead of how God’s Word defines it? Jesus’ offer today is a loving discipline to apply the light of His truth to your heart so that He may heal you completely giving you what you really need, a complete and full understanding of the Savior and His love for you. Let’s pray together now and ask Him to illumine where we have been deceiving ourselves, let’s ask Him to light up all of our souls to drive the remnants of dark away, and let’s practice believing Him today that His light can and will save us completely.

### **PRAY**

### **COMMUNION**

### **BENEDICTION**

Go in the name of the Father, that has provided for us the once and for-all light of His Son that will never dim but increasingly get brighter.

Go in the name of the Son, that stands at the door and knocks and will come in and will shed light on every inch of our heart.

Go in the name and the power of the HS, that gives us the words to proclaim His marvelous light.