5/22/20 Devotional

Let us consider this teaching of Jesus:

“*You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting*

*a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in*

*the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see*

*your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”* Matthew 5:14-16.

Light is life. Light generates life. The purpose of light is to illuminate. Light is fundamental to creation. Creation would not survive without light. In the book of Genesis God said: *“Let there be light and there was light. God saw that the light was good. God called the light Day and the darkness Night.”* Light was the first thing that God created. There was evening and morning, the first day.

Further, the Bible declares that Jesus, the Son of God, is the Light of the World; whoever follows Jesus will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. God sent Jesus to bring humanityout of the darkness of sin and into the light of God.

But the word of God doesn’t stop here as we might expect. It goes on to make an astounding declaration - Jesus says his followers are the light of the world. Jesus says that you are the light of the world. Now that is humbling. We are to glow brilliantly, to burn brightly, to blaze intensely. Jesus asserts that through our words and actions, filled with the indwelling Spirit of Christ, we reflect the light of His glory to the world. As lights, we are to witness to the one true Light in our daily lives. We are not the source of the light; we are reflectors of the Light of Christ. Jesus' light shines in and through us so He can be seen.

A Chinese proverb says: *“It is better to light a single candle than to curse the darkness.”* In the face of adversity and disappointment, it is more productive to do some good, however small, than to complain about the darkness.But I know too well, because I've been there, that it's much easier to curse the darkness.

How do we reflect the light of Christ? We radiate light when we inspire courage in those who are paralyzed by fear, when we help others discover a solution to their problems, or when our witness inspires others to place their trust and commitment in God. We radiate light when we light the path of others, that is, when we are a guide or mentor to someone. We are a light when we make the time and take the time to spend with someone who is discouraged and needs the power of light for their heart.

We radiate light when our words and actions inspire hope in others, when they begin to believe that possibilities exist, that there is a pathway out, that the future is open, and that they are not alone. We radiate light when we truly love others in Christ without thought of recognition or acknowledgment. Are you hiding Christ’s light or revealing it? God’s eternal light shines in you. The highest calling any of us can have in life is making the world a little brighter because of the way we live and move and have our being. And what an honor, what a privilege, to be used by God to bring the light of Christ to someone.

I close with these words from the late artist Thomas Kinkade: *“I believe we all have a greater purpose to our lives than merely existing day to day. Each of us in our own unique way is called to let our light shine.” “Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to God.”*

God’s grace be with you,

Rev. Alan W. Deuel