

3-2018

The Parables of Jesus Christ: Don't Darken yOur Light

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Recommended Citation

Willmington, Harold, "The Parables of Jesus Christ: Don't Darken yOur Light" (2018). *The Second Person File*. 195.

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THE PARABLES OF JESUS CHRIST

PARABLE TWO: Don't Darken yOur Light (Mt. 5:14-16; Mk. 4:21-22; Lk. 8:16-17; 11:33-36)

SURVEY

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Mt. 5:14-16)

"Your eye is a lamp for your body. A pure eye lets sunshine into your soul. But an evil eye shuts out the light and plunges you into darkness. Make sure that the light you think you have is not really darkness. If you are filled with light, with no dark corners; then your whole life will be radiant as though a floodlight is shining on you." (Lk. 11:34-36, NLT)

SIGNIFICANCE

This is but the first of many instances in the New Testament where the nature and function of light is employed to illustrate and describe a believer's testimony.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- As has been observed, Jesus instructs us to function as lights. But in reality we are to serve as light reflectors, for the Savior alone is the only true light!

John's gospel brings this out time and again:

"In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not... Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life ... As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world...I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness." (Jn. 1:4-5; 8:12; 9:5; 12:46)

- Here are some elements involved in this light-reflecting ministry:
 1. The testimony of John the Baptist was viewed as a light to the Jews (Jn. 5:35).
 2. The testimonies of Paul and Barnabas were viewed as lights to the Gentiles (Acts 13:4).
 3. We are called the sons of light (Lk. 16:8; Jn. 12:36; 1 Thess. 5:5).
 4. We are thus to put on the armor of light (Rom. 13:12).
 5. We are to walk in the light (Eph. 5:8).
 6. We are to shine brightly and blameless in this world of darkness (Phil. 2:15).