

TRUE LIGHT



Her eyes brightened with hope as he entered the room, while her sister sniffed the air, and bristled.

“Who is this man? What’s he doing here?”

Then the parade began. People came crowding through the door until there was no room even to stand.

“Lord, if you want to, you can make me clean.” “Lord, let me receive my sight!”



He touched the leper, opened the man’s sightless eyes with a touch, then he looked into the faces that crowded the room.

He began to speak. *“A sower went out to sow his seed, and as he sowed....”*

Who knows how many houses, synagogues, and hillsides witnessed this scene. Multitudes were drawn to this man, while others surveyed him with suspicion and turned away.

The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

He kept moving from place to place, never deviating from his single message:

“The Kingdom of God has arrived. Turn around and believe the good news!”

He offered a new world, God’s World.

He opened the door to a kingdom which is free to all, yet carries a high price.

“The Kingdom of Heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he went and sold all that he had, and bought that field.”

Matthew 13

He never hammered his truth into apathetic hearts.

He never terrified timid souls into submission.

He simply opened the door.

“God’s Kingdom is here. Come on in.”



To get through that door, however, meant exposing the soul to his light---

---the True Light.

No masks, no deceit, no more hypocrisy.

The evangelist stepped out on the platform and scanned a crowd. He opened his Bible, lifted it high in the air shouting, *"Do you realize that time is short? Do you understand that the Lord Jesus is coming soon? Are you ready for the Rapture or are you still playing games!"*

The evangelist paused to let his words sink in. As he was about to continue, his eyes were drawn to a man sitting just below the platform. *"Who is that man? Why do I feel like a fraud as he looks up at me?"* The evangelist pressed on with his sermon, but his words were empty.



It's easy to talk about God, so long as God is not rattling your cage. It's easy to talk about Jesus, when Jesus is safely locked up in that Bible you hold with such devotion. But when you sense that Jesus is looking into your soul as you mouth those pious words, your spirit wilts.

A visitation from heaven has begun to unsettle those of us who claim to be followers of Jesus.

It can happen when we're gathered in church.

It can happen when we're sitting alone on a quiet evening.

Sometimes it wakes us out of a sound sleep.

Judgment has begun to fall on the household of God.



As our hearts are exposed to the True Light, we begin to feel like frauds.

Is God harassing us?

What's going on?

The Lord Jesus is preparing us for days which will try us to the core.

In order to survive the approaching storm, we need to be delivered from a hypocrisy which we have refused to face.

If we listen to the voice of the Master and repent, the light of heaven begins to refine and prepare us. If we keep ignoring the Master's warnings, the day will arrive when a Severe Mercy will expose our self-deceit before the world.

In the meantime, when so many thousands of the multitude had gathered together that they trod upon one another, he began to say to his disciples first, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. Therefore whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed upon the housetops.

Luke 12

Before the True Light can heal us, it has to cleanse us.

And before the Light can cleanse us, it has to convict us.



If we close our ears and shut our eyes when God exposes our hypocrisy to his light, we soon find ourselves stumbling along a path far from the Narrow Road that leads to life.

In the coming days, the Lord's warnings will become more urgent.

These warnings are for our own good, and for the good of his Kingdom.

It is no accident that the Kingdom of God is described as a Kingdom of Light.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth; but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

I John 1

Lord, give us the wisdom to pay attention when you put your finger on our hypocrisy.

Lord, give us the wisdom to repent in the presence of your True Light.

Lord, give us the strength to deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and follow you---all the way.



Prayer: Yes, Lord, give us the wisdom to see our own hypocrisy, give us hearts driven to repent, and the strength to follow you all the way. And when we hear your words, when we encounter you in any way.... help us to embrace you as the True Light, embrace your welcome, embrace your presence, embrace your guidance. May your words, though difficult, pierce our souls with truth and a need to follow them. May we turn from our ways, from darkness, from our sneers, and completely believe in your good news. Convict us, cleanse us when our religion becomes empty platitudes, when our walk wavers with excuses not to live by your every word. May we go forward without wavering from your True Light anymore. Amen.

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