

The Gospel According to Matthew pt 11

(Hid to Them that are Lost)

Our text; Matt. 4:12-17

The lord had been Baptized, fulfilling righteousness as stated in verse 15 of chapter 3, He was tempted as we, yet without sin (Ch 4 v1-11), and now He begins His Ministry, shining the Light of Himself in the hearts of His chosen, beyond the Jordan, in Galilee of the Gentiles, a prophecy spoken of by Isaiah; (Isa 9:1-2) **Nevertheless the dimness shall not be such as was in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward did more grievously afflict her by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations. The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.**

Let's be clear about something here, only God can turn the light on where darkness once ruled!

(2Co 4:3-7) But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

If the Light of Truth shines in this poor heart, it is because He, God has chosen and made this sinful soul to be a vessel of His mercy!

(Rom 9:15) For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.

(Rom 9:16) So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.

Then in verses 21-26 we read these words; **“Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour? What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory, Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles? As he saith also in Osee, I will call them my people, which were not my people; and her beloved, which was not beloved. And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God”**.

Folks **“the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart”**. (Heb 4:12) It's God giving Life where there was no life, through the preaching of His Word, life to a heart that was spiritually dead, dead in sin, this is what our text is saying; **“The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light”**.

All come into this world, born in that darkness, unregenerate, spiritually dead, we know Him not as He is, yet He has chosen to be merciful, by revealing The Truth to a people who would not, could not call upon Him! Oh what Amazing Grace, that would save a sinner such as I!

When one has been brought to see the truth of what they are before a Thrice Holy God, how could they not bow in admiration for the one who Loves them and gave Himself the Substitute for their sin's!

(Mat 4:17) From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

But not all who have heard God's Word, have been given life to hear with ears of the heart! To Some the truth is hid! **"Hid to Them that are Lost"**. Not all, as the world would like you to believe, are loved of God, this must be pointed out as part to our understanding the depth of His love for His people, for me, for you. God does not love everyone, He hates the wicked, and if I, were not by His grace, washed clean, and made Righteous in the blood of His Son, He would hate me as well, for in this flesh, dwelleth no good thing!

Rom 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

Rom 7:15 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.

Rom 7:16 If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good.

Rom 7:17 Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

Rom 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

Rom 7:19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

Rom 7:20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

Rom 7:21 I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

Rom 7:22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

Rom 7:23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

Rom 7:24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

Rom 7:25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

This truth of Sin, and the depth of it in us is hid to those that are lost, the world, natural man, thinks, believes, that they can change their spots, we can turn over a new leaf, if we will just try hard enough, do something, go to church on a certain day, get baptized, walk the isle, all we have to do is make a decision, folks as the Apostle Paul stated, even in our goodness, the people of God find evil! Oh wretched man that I am, not that I was!

Having this truth of Salvation in His son the lord Jesus, revealed unto us, and hid from some, how can we not bow and give Thanks, and Praises and Glory to the One who has revealed His Truths to us?

(Luk 10:21-22) In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight. All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him.

(Mat 16:15-17) He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

This revelation is the Light of the world, eternal Life! It springs up as living water. The Apostle John records the Lord's Words in; (Joh 7:37-38) **If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.**

Christ told the Samaritan woman at the well; **"If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water"** (Joh 4:10).

It always comes back to this; "GRACE" God's Amazing Grace!

If God in His Works of Grace has shined the Light of His Son in your heart there shall be “**rivers of living water**” flowing from within, a Light is not put under the bed, it is displayed that some may see!

As the people of God go through this world, sojourning our way to our Heavenly Home, we pass through a world of death, everything around us, all that we see, will eventually die, the grass withereth, and the flower fadeth away, so will all things around us, yet death is but a shadow to the people of God. Our death has been delt with, the death we deserve has been laid upon the Spotless Lamb of God! All for whom God has loved with an everlasting Love died in His Son on that cruel Cross just over 2000 years ago! Our substitute, the only one who knew no sin, was made sin, made to be our sin, and died our death! And that revelation is precious to sinner!

1Pe 1:18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

1Pe 1:19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

1Pe 1:20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

1Pe 1:21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

And in God alone!

Like the inhabitants of Capernaum, like the Gentiles of Galilee long ago, you and I were in great darkness. We sat in darkness because we loved it. We did not seek the light, but upon us great light has come. The light of Christ and the grace and glory of God in Him has shined into our hearts, creating in us life and faith in Christ;

(Joh 1:1-14) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

When the gospel comes, light comes;

(Luk 1:77-79) To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins, Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

(Joh 3:19) And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

When the gospel comes into the heart in the grace and power of God the Holy Spirit, we are made new creatures in Christ;

(Gen 1:1-3) In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

(2Co 5:17) Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Brother Don Fortner wrote; *“He came to Capernaum because Capernaum in Galilee, was the place of Gentile “nothings” and “nobodies”, it was the place from which he would fetch trophies of his grace (1Co 1:26-31) For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.* Brother Don goes on to say; *“Galilean speech was crude. Galilean people were poor, illiterate, and uncouth. Galileans were the rough-necks on the other side of the tracks. These are the people from whom our Lord would call out a people to serve him, by whom he would build his church and kingdom”.*

The message our Lord preached was the same of what John the Baptist preached. — **“From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”** (Mat 4:17).

Our Lord Jesus preached one message. He preached the necessity of repentance, in hand with the necessity of trusting Him alone for acceptance with God; **“Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ”** (Act 20:21).

He preached that message constantly (Luk 13:1-5) **There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in**

Jerusalem? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

And He preached that message urgently, – “**For the kingdom of heaven is at hand!**” The Lord of Glory was a preacher. Let all who claim to be preachers follow His example and reiterate His message.

J.C.Ryle wrote; “*There is no office so honorable as that of the preacher. There is no work so important to the souls of men. It is an office, which the Son of God was not ashamed to take up. It is an office to which he appointed his twelve apostles. It is an office to which Paul in his old age specially directs Timothy’s attention. He charges him with almost his last breath to ‘preach the Word’ (2Ti 4:2). It is the principle means which God has always been pleased to use for the conversion and edification of souls. The brightest days of the church have been those when preaching has been honored. The darkest days of the church have been those when it has been lightly esteemed*”.

I pray it is the Lord’s will to press on my heart to preach His Gospel with earnest care for the souls whom He has come to and commanded His Light to shine in!