



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC	Take Heed That The Light In You Is Not Darkness	SPEAKER	Ps Low Kok Guan
THEME	Take Heed	DATE	17 & 18 October 2020

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Jesus had just cast out a demon from a man, but was accused by the people of performing the act by the power of the devil. The people tested Jesus by asking Him for a sign from heaven (Luke 11: 14-17). Knowing their evil intentions, Jesus addresses the people by saying that no sign would be given except the sign of Jonah. He then concludes by warning the people to be careful lest the light in them was darkness (Luke 11: 29 – 36).

TWO KEY QUESTIONS

The people had witnessed with their own eyes that Jesus cast out demons, yet they denounced it. When Jesus healed the sick on the Sabbath, they accused Jesus of breaking the law. When Jesus forgave sin, they cried blasphemy. How could the people have been so blind to the deity of Christ, unless the light in them had become darkness?

How can we prevent the same from happening to us? We should ask ourselves these two questions:

Question 1: What are you seeking after?

Despite witnessing Jesus' miracles, the people refused to believe and still demanded to have a sign. Jesus said no sign would be given except the sign of Jonah – in the way Jonah remained alive after three days in the belly of the fish, so would Jesus die and rise again from the belly of the earth in three days. The Ninevites to whom Jonah preached the message of repentance took heed and were saved.

Jesus then goes on to tell the doubting crowd of the Queen of Sheba, who came from afar to hear the wisdom of King Solomon – the wisest man who lived – and believed what he said (Luke 11:31).

Amongst the plethora of Old Testament characters, Jesus intentionally chose Jonah and King Solomon as examples. The reason for this is because although the Ninevites and Queen of Sheba were not God's chosen people, they chose to turn their hearts towards God. But when Jesus came to his own people, the Jews, they failed to recognise the God whom they had been worshipping, because they sought the wrong sign. Jesus was not the answer they were seeking after.

Are you seeking, but missing the Saviour? There is nothing wrong with asking God to meet our needs (Luke 11: 10-13), but we should not just seek God's hand, but learn to seek God for who He is.

Question 2: What are you focusing on?

In Luke 11: 33-34, Jesus gives the people the metaphor of the lamp.

Verse 33 says "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". The focus in this verse is not on the lighting of the lamp, but where the lamp is placed thereafter; further, the verb "enter" in Greek can be translated as "entering" or "journeying into". Collectively, what this means is that where we place our lamp is key, so that others who wish to enter the kingdom of God may see the light. We too are to put our light at the right place and right time so that we can shine for Jesus.

Verse 34 says "Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy (single), your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad (evil), your body is full of darkness." Jesus was not referring to the physical eye here, but the spiritual eye. To have a single or simple eye means to be wholeheartedly focused on what God has called us to do, not looking to the left or the right (i.e. compare), and to truly be able to celebrate successes of others, instead of being bitter, jealous or covetous about it.

Do you have a single eye? What are you focusing on? Do you desire Jesus only and what He can do in and through you, and nothing else? Or do you have a bad eye that tries to look at God and the world at the same time? Keep your eye single on God, so that your minds will not be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ (2 Corinthians 11:3).

CONCLUSION

If we ask ourselves these two questions, we will learn to be careful that the light in us is not darkness. When Jesus gives us light, our whole body will light up with the light of Christ, not just for us, also so that others who want to know Jesus can see the light and enter the kingdom of God.

QUESTIONS

1. When you come to the Lord in prayer, what are your intentions? What answers are you hoping to hear from God?

2. In Matthew 5:14, Jesus calls us the light of the world, and tells us to let our light shine before others, that they may see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven. In Luke 11:34, Jesus says that our eye is the lamp of our body, and when it is healthy (single), our whole body becomes full of light.

How can you keep our eyes singly on God, so that our light may direct others to Christ?

3. God has a destiny for all of us as His children, but unless we fix our eyes on Him, we might miss it. How can we as a church help each other to ensure that the light we see is that of God and maintain healthy “eyes” in our pursuit of Christlikeness?