

Title: If Thine Eye Be Single

Text: Luke 11: 29-36

Date: 8-9-09

Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, New Jersey

I. BLIND SINNERS CAN NOT SEE CHRIST THE LIGHT

Luke 11: 33: No man, when he hath lighted a candle, putteth *it* in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light.

Here Christ the Light of the world stands face-to-face with sinners. His words are the gospel of Light. He is not in a secret place but in plain view, like a lighted candle, so all may see the Light. His gospel is set forth so that all may hear. Yet, these sinners believed not the truth of Christ the Light. Why?

The problem is not that the Light of the gospel is not shining that all may see. The problem is in the sinner. Listen to the word of the Lord:

Luke 11: 34: The light of the body is the eye:

The window to the soul through which the light shines is described here as the eye.

Luke 11: 34: Therefore when thine eye is single,

When your eye is whole it is set on the light

Luke 11: 34: thy whole body also is full of light;

The light fills the inner room, the inner man, the heart.

Luke 11: 34: but when *thine eye* is evil,

When your eye is blind, dark, unable to comprehend light.

Luke 11: 34: thy body also *is* full of darkness.

Where there is no window--only a blind eye, the body is full of darkness.

Yet, they thought they had light within them. The Lord says,

Luke 11: 35: Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness.

That which they called light was to come seek for Christ to work a sign. But he says to them.

Luke 11: 30: For as Jonas was a sign unto the Ninevites, so shall also the Son of man be

Jonah came preaching. The Gentiles in Nineveh repented at his preaching. The Gentile Queen came all the way to hear, not to seek something to do but to hear, Solomon the wise man.

Luke 11: 31:...behold, a greater than Solomon *is* here.

Luke 11: 32: a greater than Jonah is here.

He is declaring that he is the Wisdom and the Light. He is preaching the gospel of light. Christ stood right before them like a lighted candle. But their eye was not whole. They could not see Christ the Light. Their eye was evil. Therefore, their whole body was full of darkness. That which they thought was light was really darkness.

The religious leaders were just as blind. The Pharisees and the scribes thought they had light and their followers who esteemed them so highly thought they had light.

Luke 11: 37: And as he spake, a certain Pharisee besought him to dine with him: and he went in, and sat down to meat. 38: And when the Pharisee saw *it*, he marvelled that he had not first washed before dinner. 39: And the Lord said unto him, Now do ye Pharisees make clean the outside of the cup and the platter; but your inward part is full of ravening and wickedness. 40: *Ye* fools, did not he that made that which is without make that which is within also? 41: But rather give alms of such things as ye have; and, behold, all things are clean unto you. 42: But woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. 43: Woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye love the uppermost seats in the synagogues, and greetings in the markets. 44: Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are as graves which appear not, and the men that walk over *them* are not aware *of them*.

Why did he say give alms of such things as ye have, and behold, all things are clean unto you? What does the Lord mean by judgment and the love of God? Faith, Mercy and Love are fruits of the Spirit worked in the heart of a sinner.

Do you remember the rich young ruler who came to the Lord Jesus claiming to have obeyed the law from his youth up? The Lord said go sell all that you have and give it to the poor and follow me. And he went away sad.

When God writes his law on your inward parts he creates a new man who desires to honor God in obedience to God and he fills us with faith in Christ who faithfully fulfilled all righteousness and in whom you are complete. We believe that he who spared not his own Son will freely give us all things. He makes us merciful toward the needy because we have tasted the Lord's grace and mercy to us. The Spirit of God gives love toward God and sinners because we behold that he first loved us and that true love lays down its life for its friends. He gives discernment to deal in mercy and truth, in wisdom, showing mercy, covering over the sin of our brethren and not legalistic accusers.

The Pharisees and scribes were not poor in spirit but thought they were full of righteousness. They looked down their noses even at Christ Jesus the Righteous. There was no mourning their sin and the sin of others. Instead they used the law to make themselves appear righteous, to oppress, to yoke and to terrify poor sinners. They were not meek but proud. Thinking themselves righteous they did not hunger and thirst after righteousness else they would have fallen at the feet of Christ begging mercy. They were not merciful toward other sinners but they condemned men, shamed men, robbed poor sinners filling their cups and platters by extortion. There had no pure heart but the Lord says they were full of ravening and wickedness, hypocrites.

If you have mercy, faith and judgment then you will deal with sinners in a manner like Christ dealt with sinners rather than being a merciless disciplinarian like the Pharisees and scribes of Christ's day and of our own.

Luke 11: 45: Then answered one of the lawyers, and said unto him, Master, thus saying thou reproachest us also. 46: And he said, Woe unto you also, *ye* lawyers! for ye lade men with

burdens grievous to be borne, and ye yourselves touch not the burdens with one of your fingers....52: Woe unto you, lawyers! for ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered.

The Key of Knowledge is Christ. By the law is the knowledge of sin. But they took away that key by using the law to promote self-righteousness. The prophets spoke of Christ Jesus. But they garnished the sepulchers of the prophets yet they would not preach the gospel of the prophets nor hear Christ the Prophet. Christ is the Key. We have no righteousness. He is our righteousness. All our standing with God, all our sanctification, all our holiness, all our hope, all our all is Christ. Christ is All in all whom the light shines. They entered not into the truth of Christ in the law and the prophets and those who were entering they hindered.

Luke 11: 34:...when *thine* eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness.

When the light that in a man is really darkness, he may appear as a white washed sepulcher outwardly, he may be highly esteemed among men, but his treasure will be to concentrate on traditions and lesser matters rather than on these weightier matters. But because the person and work of Christ the Light makes the self-righteous, self-sanctifying works of men to appear evil, men hate the light of the gospel. They accused Christ of being against the law, they accused Stephen of it, they accused Paul of it and they will accuse you of being against the law. Because their true hope is in their law-keeping rather than in Christ.

John 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. 20: For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

Luke 11: 35: Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness.

II. THE POWER OF GOD MAKES THE EYES OF BLIND SINNERS TO SEE

Luke 11: 34: The light of the body is the eye: therefore when *thine* eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light;

The seeing eye is the result of the new creation born of the Spirit of God. Paul compared it to the first creation.

Genesis 1: 1: In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Likewise, God the Word, created Adam. He breathed into Adam the breath of life and the life was the light of Adam. But between Genesis 1: 1 and Genesis 1: 2 something happened. The earth became without form and void; and darkness covered the face of the deep. Likewise, by Adam's transgression against God, Adam became without form and void and darkness covered the face of the deep. So it is with all who are born of Adam. But Genesis 1: 2 says...

Genesis 1: 2:...the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. 3: And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. 4: And God saw the light, that *it was* good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

Likewise, in the creation of the new man, the Spirit of God moves upon the face of the deep within a sinner. God says, "Let there be Light and there is light." The Spirit of God divides the Light of the new man from the darkness of the old Adam-nature.

2 Corinthians 4:6: 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.

Our Lord could have given light to any of those who stood before him had they been his sheep for whom he was sent to give life. But they were not. Therefore, he left them in darkness.

III. WHEN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST SHINES IN A SINNER THE SPIRIT OF GOD SANCTIFIES THAT SINNER.

Luke 11: 34:...Therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light;

The eye of faith takes in the light. It looks straight ahead. When your eye is whole it is single and set on Christ the Light as he is set forth in the gospel of light. When your eye takes in the light, Christ the Light sanctifies—enlightens, dispels darkness--in the whole body.

Luke 11: 36: If thy whole body therefore *be* full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light.

All the powers and faculties of the new man are in subjection to the government and influence of Christ the Light, and no part is left unsanctified, the whole body is full of light. The whole soul shall be full of light, full of holiness and comfort. It was darkness itself, but now light in the Lord, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light.

This is so because from the moment light enters, it is Christ the Lord who teaches the believer in the heart through the Holy Spirit through his gospel.

Isaiah 54: 11: O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, *and* not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colours, and lay thy foundations with sapphires. 12: And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy borders of pleasant stones. 13: And all thy children *shall be* taught of the LORD; and great *shall be* the peace of thy children. 14: In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee.

Isaiah 54: 12: And I will make thy windows of agates...

I will make thy windows because if thine eye be whole thy whole body shall be full of light. The "agate" which our Lord speaks of is a perfect agate. It is crystal clear so that light can shine through. In revelation 21: 11, the light of the new Jerusalem coming down out of heaven is described:

Revelation 21:11: Having the glory of God: and her light *was* like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

This word "crystal" gets its name from the sun. Through clear agate windows, the glory of God shines like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. The rays and light of the Sun of righteousness are let into the house, into the inward man from Faith to faith, from Christ the Faithful into the window of faith into the heart of the believer.

Isaiah 54: 13: And all thy children *shall be* taught of the LORD

For the first time, Christ teaches us the law of the commandments. Until Christ Jesus through the Spirit through the gospel begins teaching a sinner in the heart none hear what he says through his law. Paul was a

Pharisee of Pharisee. He says that there was a time when he had the law but he had no idea what the law said. And he thought he had life by his obedience to the law. But when the Lord teaches us in the heart through the Spirit the commandment comes and, as Paul said, sin revives. Sine becomes alive. We behold sin is all we are. And we die. We die to all our so-called obedience to the law. We behold it has all been deception, sin, self-righteous, and it is but filthy rags.

Then Christ the Lord teaches us the gospel...**and great shall be the peace of thy children.**

Isaiah 54: 14: In righteousness shalt thou be established:

The Light teaches his children that he has redeemed us from the curse of the law having been made a curse for us. He reveals that we are holy and without blame before God in him. Christ Jesus has established the law for us in perfect righteousness and by faith in him we have established the law. He guides us and protects us now. We are established. No longer tossed to and fro by the cunning craftiness of men.

Galatians 5:18: But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

From the moment Christ shines the light in a sin-dark hearts, the believer is not led of the law, driven of the law, motivated of the law, restrained of the law, yoked of the law, threatened of the law, fearful of the law or condemned of the law, BUT IS LED OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD, HE WALKS AFTER THE SPIRIT OF LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS.

Now we delight in the law of God after the inward man; now we behold that there is no lesser law, God's law must be fulfilled in perfection. All the law of God has been fulfilled--honored and magnified--by our Redeemer and we are dead to it and are now married to him. We serve him in newness of spirit not in the oldness of the letter. The Lord is now our defender our protector, our teacher, the Spirit guides us into all truth.

Isaiah 54: 14:...thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee.

Christ has delivered us from the bondage of oppressors by taking away the power of death which is sin, which was the power of the devil who accused us through his seed. The strength of sin is the law and the law has nothing to say to those who are righteous in Christ Jesus. We are kept far from the oppression of false teachers that oppress the mind with legal doctrine, from the accusations of satan which tormented us through fear of death.

I Corinthians 15: 56: The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law. 57: But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The woman caught in adultery stood silent while the religious men, the accusers of the brethren, accused her before our Lord. She was oppressed by those men. They were calling for her to be stoned to death. But the Lord caused her accusers to leave one by one just like he does ours.

John 8: 10: When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? 11: She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more. 12: 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.

Romans 8: 33: Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth. 34: Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

1 John 4: 17: Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. 18: There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. 19: We love him, because he first loved us.

Luke 11: 34:...Therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light;...as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light.

We are not deceived into sin by the vain words of men: Our desire is that fornication, and all uncleanness, and covetousness not to be named once among us.

Ephesians 5: 8: For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye* light in the Lord: walk as children of light: 9: (For the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) 10: Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

APPLICATION:

Matthew 5: 14: Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15: 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. 16: Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Religion is meeting this morning to talk of man's works. How that men should live so that others behold you and your good works and behold Christ by looking at you. And when you do not meet their requirements, the religious leaders oppress you and terrify you with accusations and terrors of death just like the Pharisees and the scribes of old. Those are the "many wonderful works" of which our Lord says many will make their boast of in the day he casts them out.

Isaiah 50:11: Behold, all ye that kindle a fire, that compass *yourselves* about with sparks: walk in the light of your fire, and in the sparks *that* ye have kindled. This shall ye have of mine hand; ye shall lie down in sorrow.

We are meeting to talk of Christ's works and only of Christ's works. The works the children of light do, which the Lord causes a regenerate sinner to behold, which God uses to lead other sinners to glorify our Father in heaven, are works which make you and I unnoticeable. It is a good work, well-pleasing to God, whatever it be that makes it so men are not distracted by something in us, whether sin outside of religion or the sin of self-righteousness. But rather, we stay out of the way that sinners may behold Christ the Light in the gospel of life which we hold forth.

When they asked John the Baptist who he was he said, "I am not the Light" He said, "I came to bear witness of the Light." "I am not the Christ."

John 1: 23: He said, I *am* the voice of One crying in the wilderness [I am an ambassador for Christ as though God did beseech you by me, I pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.]

John 3: 30: He must increase, but I *must* decrease.

We haven't gotten here in Matthew 5 just yet in our study, but the Lord Jesus said, He that shall do and teach shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. John the Baptist was called great. Because doing righteousness is coming to Christ the Light that our deeds may be made manifest that they are wrought in God. By faith in the LORD our Righteousness we are the righteousness of God in Christ. Teaching righteousness is to teach men that salvation is by faith in Christ of whom all the law and the prophets bear witness.

Daniel 12:3: And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

1 Peter 5:4: And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.