

April 7, 2024 – You Are...

John 1:4-5 "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it."

- Jesus is the source of physical life, spiritual life and eternal life. We aren't really living until we have Jesus living within us and that we are living for Him.

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

Matthew 5:13-16 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

- Jesus is saying the same thing with two descriptions. Salt & Light.
- Salt preserves, adds flavor and salt makes you thirsty!
- Light is a major theme in the bible.

Genesis 1:3 "Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light."

Ephesians 5:8 "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light."

1 Peter 2:9 "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;"

1 John 1:5 "This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all."

Matthew 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden."

As for me and my house:

- We spend our days interacting with all kinds of people. How can you "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" in all the different relationships you have?
- Think of your "good works." Does it cause people to give glory to God or to you?
- Stop to pray that you would walk closely with Jesus and that His light would shine bright through you.

Follow Jesus Today: Lord Jesus, forgive me for my sins. I open the door of my heart and I choose to make you the Lord of my life. Fill me with your Holy Spirit. Amen! **(Romans 10:9-10)**

Tithes & Offerings: Hebrews 11:6 "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

My Prayer: As I give in today's offering, Lord, we come before You in faith, believing that You are the Almighty God, the Creator of all things. We know that without faith, it is impossible to please You. Strengthen my faith, O Lord, that I will trust in Your promises and I believe that I will see Your goodness all over my life. In Jesus Name, Amen!

Communion: The cross was an extremely powerful event, both spiritually and physically. We know that it changed the spiritual world forever, breaking the power of sin and death and exchanging it for the forgiveness of sin and eternal life. But physically, the cross was also a cosmic event. When we read about the crucifixion, we find miracles surrounding the death of Jesus.

Matthew 27:45-46, 50-53 "Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many."

Sometimes we forget these very things.

- **Jesus voluntarily surrendered His spirit.** Death did not take Him, but He chose at what point in time He would give up His spirit.
- **The sky turns black.** The sun is somehow darkened in the middle of the day, a sign of what is about to happen. Interesting, Jesus called Himself the light of the world and was about to die. The sun, the physical light of the world, was also gone, if only for a temporary moment.
- **The temple veil is torn in two from top to bottom.** This woven and embroidered curtain 30 feet tall and 60 feet wide, as thick as 4 inches, is torn in two as if it were a piece of paper. This could have only been done by God to show that there was now no longer any barrier between man and God's presence.
- **There is a violent earthquake with the cross at its epicenter.** The death of Jesus literally shook the earth. Was creation itself reacting violently to the sudden death of its creator?
- **The rocks split.** The earthquake was so violent that many graves in the surrounding area of the cross opened. Despite the violent earthquake, the empty tomb that was intended to be Jesus resting place, is untouched by the earthquake.
- **Graves are opened.** Now that the rocks covering the entrances were broken, or the rocks fell away, opening the graves for the next miracle that would come and saints are raised and go into Jerusalem and are seen by many people.

Bringing that power back to the communion table today. The breaking of His body has the power to heal all and His blood has the power to forgive and remove sin, the sin that was laid upon Him. The weight of just one man's sin is a heavy burden for Him to carry, but who can imagine what the weight of the world's sin was like? But this was His assignment that He chose, to bear our transgressions and remove our separation.

Matthew 26:26-29 "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 "For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes."

My Prayer: Father, mold me and transform me into the image of Your Son.