

Luke 11:33-36

“Full of Light”

June 29, 2025

1. Intro

a. *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.*

i. From the very first passage in the Word of God, LIGHT has played a fundamental role in the unfolding of God’s plan for the world

1. And what we see is that the primary role of light, is to PUSH BACK the darkness

a. That’s what we read in Genesis 1:1-5...

i. When God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep

1. Darkness covered EVERYTHING

a. There was no sun or moon

b. There were no distant stars whose light had not yet reached our world

i. There was simply darkness

2. UNTIL, God spoke into the darkness and said, “Let there be light”

a. And God saw that the light was GOOD

i. So He then separated the light from the darkness

1. And in so doing, God established a principle that will run all throughout the Scriptures, right up until the very last chapter of Revelation...

a. Light will represent all that is good and Godly and Christ-exalting

b. Darkness will represent all that is evil and wicked and AGAINST God

i. And there will FOREVER be a separation between the two

3. We see this in the plagues that were sent upon Egypt, where God’s people had been held as slaves for nearly four centuries

a. The ninth plague would be a plague of darkness that would come over all the land of the Egyptians

i. Exodus 10:21 says that this was a darkness that could be FELT

1. This darkness stretched all throughout the land, EXCEPT for where the people of Israel lived

a. There was a distinct, supernatural separation between the light and the darkness...

i. Between the people of God, and the ENEMIES of God

4. We see it again just a few chapters later in Exodus 14, as Moses and the people of Israel are standing at the edge of the sea, with the Egyptian armies quickly coming up behind them

- a. And Moses tells us that the angel of the Lord moved BETWEEN the Israelites and the Egyptians
 - i. This angel had been leading the Israelites in their journey so far, as a pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night
 - 1. But as the angel now stood BEHIND the Israelites, it became both a great darkness over the armies of Pharaoh, AND a pillar of fire...
 - a. Bringing LIGHT to the people of Israel, as they watched God begin to divide the waters of the sea
 - 2. Again, there was a distinct, supernatural separation between the light and the darkness...
 - a. Between the people of God and the enemies of God
5. As Job will proclaim in Job 12, verses 24 and 25,
 - a. ²⁴[The Lord] takes away understanding from the chiefs of the people of the earth and makes them wander in a trackless waste. ²⁵They grope in the dark without light, and he makes them stagger like a drunken man.
 - i. So it is with ALL who stand against the God of all the Heavens and the Earth
 - 1. Light is FOREVER separate from the dark
- ii. But of course, nowhere do we see this principle personified more clearly than in the person of our Lord Jesus Christ
 - 1. In John 1, we read these magnificent words about the Son of God...
 - a. Verses 1-5 tell us that,
 - i. *¹In the beginning was the Word [Jesus], and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the LIGHT of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*
 - b. John the Apostle then writes of John the Baptist in verses 6-8,
 - i. *⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness ABOUT THE LIGHT, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.*
 - c. And then John continues in verse 9,
 - i. *⁹The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.*
 - 1. Why did God see that light back in Genesis 1 and call it GOOD?
 - a. Because the TRUE light of goodness absolutely radiates from His very own Son!
 - i. The true light HAS COME into the world
 - ii. Christ has shone into the darkness
 - iii. And the darkness had no hope whatsoever in its attempts to overcome the light
 - 2. Darkness fell across the land for three hours as Jesus hung upon the cross
 - a. But the light of his glory burst forth just two days later, as he was resurrected on the third day...

b. And as he now sits at the right hand of the throne of God, in all of majestic glory

iii. Jesus is indeed the TRUE light

1. And as we'll see this morning, he spent quite a bit of time during his three-and-a-half year ministry teaching his followers what it means for THEM to be the light as well

a. So, we will eventually get to our main passage for today in Luke 11

i. But I want us to see that this passage in Luke 11:33-36 is just one component in a bigger picture that Jesus unfolds for us in the Gospels

1. So, in order to walk through Jesus' teachings somewhat chronologically, we'll start this morning in the Sermon on the Mount...

a. Go ahead and turn in your Bibles to Matthew 5, and we'll look at verses 14-16 together

iv. Now, it's important for us to remember the context of the Sermon on the Mount

1. There is indeed a MASSIVE crowd surrounding Jesus and his disciples at this point

a. And Jesus certainly DID want all of the crowds to hear this unrivaled "Sermon of sermons"

i. But as you begin to study the Sermon on the Mount carefully, you quickly begin to realize that these are not simply good, generic teachings that ANYONE can follow in their efforts to be a good person

1. What we see instead is that, to truly live out these teachings in OUR OWN strength... it's not just hard to do,

a. It is IMPOSSIBLE to do!

ii. Only the TRUE disciple of Jesus can live out these words of Jesus

1. Only one indwelt with the Spirit of God could ever hope to walk in obedience to these commands

b. So we must remember that, while Jesus' voice certainly carried out to the masses of people surrounding him

i. His eyes were undoubtedly fixed upon the disciples sitting at his feet

1. These words were first and foremost meant for the disciples

2. And therefore, they are meant for US, the church gathered here today

v. And so Jesus gives us here his first teachings on what it means to be followers of the Light

1. And he'll use one of his favorite metaphors in verse 15, the picture of a lamp that has been lit

2. Starting in verse 14, Jesus says,

a. *¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*

i. So, what is the first application for US, who are the "lamps that have been lit"?

1. The first application is that we are called to SHINE before others

a. God didn't bring light into our darkened hearts so that we would then take that light and hide it under a basket

i. He illuminated our hearts in order that we might take that light TO OTHERS

b. Or we could say it in this way...

- i. God did not illuminate the darkness of our hearts with the light of Christ, just so we could keep it hidden within the confines of this church building
 - 1. He brought light into our hearts, so that we would take it OUT into the world... out into THE DARKNESS!
 - c. I absolutely love our Sunday morning gatherings, and our Wednesday night studies
 - i. The spiritual light that shines during those times is such a joy to get to be a part of
 - 1. But friends, if our light only shines HERE, within this building, then we have become like a lamp that was lit, but then we chose to hide it under a bucket
 - ii. We, THE CHURCH, are the light of the world
 - 1. WE are meant to be the great city on the hill that stands as a great beacon in the darkness
 - a. And according to this passage, we shine through our GOOD WORKS
 - 2. So what are our good works?
 - a. Well, when Jesus speaks in Matthew 25 about the final judgment, and the separation of the sheep and the goats – the separation of the believers and unbelievers, he says that THESE are good works...
 - i. Giving food to the hungry
 - ii. Giving drink to the thirsty
 - iii. Welcoming the stranger
 - iv. Clothing the naked
 - v. Visiting the sick
 - vi. Ministering to those in prison
 - 1. All who do THESE things will hear these words,
 - a. *“Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”*
 - 2. They will inherit the Kingdom, because they shined like a city on a hill, ministering to the least of these, and ministering to Christ
 - 3. But there are plenty of other good works, aren't there?
 - a. We're called to care for the widows and the orphans
 - b. We're called to embrace the immigrants
 - c. We're called to love our enemies, and pray for those who persecute us, and bless those who curse us
 - d. We're called to give generously, and to serve self-sacrificially, and to love radically
 - i. And as we do these good works in the name of Jesus, our good works will shine before others, and GOD will be glorified in heaven
 - 1. Your lamp has been lit, Christian, so you will shine in doing good works, that your Father may get the glory!
- iii. But there is a second application that must go along with our good works
 - 1. And we see this again in the life of John the Baptist
 - a. Turn now over to John, chapter 5
 - i. In John chapter 5, Jesus is speaking to the religious leaders about his own authority, given to him by God

ii. And John makes the note in verse 18, that

1. *¹⁸This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.*

iv. But then Jesus says that it isn't just him that has been saying these things

3. And so we read, beginning in verse 32...

a. *³²There is another who bears witness about me, and I know that the testimony that HE bears about me is true. ³³You sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. ³⁴Not that the testimony that I receive is from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved. ³⁵He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light.*

i. Again, we see the metaphor of a lamp that has been lit

1. And WHY was John's lamp lit?

a. It was lit in order that he might TESTIFY to the truth – that he might testify about JESUS!

2. Brothers and sisters in Christ, yes, your lamp has been lit in order that you might do the good works that have been created for you to do

a. But it has ALSO been lit in order that you might TESTIFY to the world about the TRUTH that is only found in Jesus Christ!

ii. Good works are certainly a part of our role as lightbearers out in the world

1. But if you remember from a couple of weeks ago what we learned in Romans 10, faith comes from HEARING

a. And how will people HEAR, if we as the church do not GO and TESTIFY?

i. They may inadvertently give glory to God as they see our good works

b. But the only way that they will be granted the faith that leads to salvation is if they HEAR the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

i. SEEING Christians doing good works certainly softens the hearts of unbelievers

ii. But it is in HEARING our words that they begin to move to a saving faith

iii. John the Baptist was a burning and shining lamp

1. He was absolutely consumed by the flame that had been lit within him by God

2. He was spiritually and emotionally and mentally lit up by the light that he saw in Jesus Christ

a. And so faithfully bore witness about Jesus, shining brightly as a lamp for all to see, all the way up to his execution

iv. Christian, you also are called to be a burning and shining lamp, as YOU go out from here and testify to the truth, and as you do the good works that bring glory to God

1. These are the OUTWARD focused applications of Jesus' teachings regarding us being the light

a. But we also see that there are INWARD applications as well

i. Turn now in your Bibles to Luke chapter 8

v. In Luke 8, we saw awhile back that Jesus had begun teaching the people in Parables

1. And one of the most central of all of these Parables was the Parable of the Sower

a. This is of course the Parable that Jesus uses to describe four types of people out in the world

i. There are those who hear the Word of God, but the Word is immediately snatched from their ears by the devil,

1. And it never takes root in their hearts

3. And therefore, many could EASILY hear the Word of God proclaimed in his videos, and yet the TRUTH of the Scriptures gets snatched away by Satan...
 - a. Before any of it can take root
- b. Or what about those who hear the Word of God proclaimed by the popular televangelists who are broadcast all over the world
 - i. They hear the Word of God proclaimed in such a way that, if they would just have enough FAITH, trouble will never come their way
 1. If they would just speak the right affirmations, they would never face financial hardship again
 - a. If they would just claim the promises of God for themselves, they will live in perfect health all the rest of their days
 2. But what happens to those who have heard the Word WRONGLY, when the time of testing comes... as we all know that it will?
 - a. They inevitably fall away, don't they?
 - i. Be careful how you hear
 - c. Or what about those who hear the Word of God proclaimed in such a way where Christ is not proclaimed as the ultimate treasure in this life AND in the life to come?
 - i. Yes, Jesus is important to getting your ticket punched to heaven
 1. But NOW we're going to spend the next seven weeks teaching you how to build wealth here on earth...
 2. Or, we'll spend the next month teaching you how to have more fulfilling relationships...
 3. Or, we'll give you this book that will teach you how to live your best life now, for a small donation to our ministry, of course
 - ii. Well, it doesn't take long for those who hear the Word of God proclaimed in this way, until they decide that Jesus is not, in fact, the ultimate treasure
 1. And they decide to leave him behind in pursuit of the treasures and pleasures of this world
- iii. Friends, be careful how you hear!
 1. Allow the Lord to turn the lamp inward into your heart and into your mind
 - a. Allow him to use that light to expose any false ideas you might have heard about His Word
 - b. Be DILIGENT in your pursuit of the truth
 - i. Immerse yourself in the Word of God
 - ii. Study it with great zeal and hunger
 1. As Paul writes in 2 Timothy 2:15
 - a. *¹⁵Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.*
 2. As Peter writes in 2 Peter 1:19
 - a. ¹⁹... we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which YOU WILL DO WELL TO PAY ATTENTION as to a LAMP shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,

3. This is what happens when we are endlessly scrolling Facebook and Instagram and comparing our lives with what we see in the lives of others
 - a. But this is also what happens when we allow our eyes to see things that cause us to lust in our hearts,
 - i. Like the pornography that is so easily accessible online and even in many movies and TV shows
 - b. This is also what happens when we allow our eyes to see things that cause us to be angry in our hearts towards our fellow man
 - i. Like the 24/7 news channels that are constantly sowing fear and division
 - ii. Brothers and sisters, your eye is the lamp of your body, so what kind of light are you letting into it?
 1. Is the light that is in your lamp fueled by the things of this world?
 2. Or is the light that is in your lamp fueled by the Word of God, and the beauty of Christ, and the goodness of God?
 - iii. As you turn your lamps inward
 1. Be careful how you hear
 2. And be careful, lest the light that is in you actually be darkness
 - b. So, we have seen how Jesus challenges us to shine our light outwardly for all to see...
 - i. As we glorify God through our good works,
 1. And as we proclaim the Good News through our words
 - c. We've also seen how Jesus challenges us to turn that light inward...
 - i. As we allow the Word of God and the light of Christ to expose the secret places of our hearts
 1. And as we use that light to test the things that we hear and see throughout our days
 - d. But Jesus will use this metaphor of the burning lamp another time in the Gospels, and that is in Luke chapter 12
 - i. Go ahead and turn there in your Bibles
 1. If you look in verses 22-31, Jesus is again teaching on not being worried or anxious about earthly things
 2. And then he says these amazing words in verses 32-34,
 - a. *³²Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*
 - e. And then comes the imagery of the lamp once more in verse 35, as Jesus says,
7. Luke 12:35-36
- a. *³⁵Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks.*
 - i. My friends, Jesus IS coming back... so keep your lamps burning
 1. Keep your lamps burning by doing good works to the glory of God
 2. Keep your lamps burning by testifying to the truth of Jesus
 3. Keep your lamps burning by hearing the Word of God RIGHTLY
 4. And keep you lamps burning by filling your eyes with the things that are true...
 - a. The things that are honorable and just...
 - b. The things that are pure and lovely...
 - c. The things that are commendable and excellent in the eyes of God

- ii. If you will do these things, you will indeed be ready when the Master comes home
 - 1. We'll close with one more passage this morning that speaks of light and lamps and the glory of God
 - a. So turn with me to Revelation, chapter 21

8. Starting in verse 22...

- a. *²²And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, ²⁵and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.*

9. Now flip over to chapter 22...

- a. *¹Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. ⁴They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.*

- i. From Genesis to Revelation, there is a spiritual reality that God has separated the light from the darkness
 - 1. And when we finally enter into eternity, those whose lamps have been lit by the grace of God, and the power of the Holy Spirit, and by the blood of the Lamb...
 - a. We will all be ushered into the Kingdom
 - i. Where there will no longer be any darkness
 - ii. And God Himself will be the light
 - iii. And the lamp will be the Lamb!
- ii. Until that Day arrives, brothers and sisters, may we be filled with the light of our Lord Jesus in everything we do, everything we say, everything we hear, and everything we see!