



Text: John 8:1-20, John 3:18-24

PROMISE

Though darkness seeks to _____ us,
Jesus _____ his followers to _____
_____ the darkness of this world.

- 1) What does mammon promise? Mammon promises _____ and delivers _____.
- 2) Jesus promises _____ and _____ the longings of our soul with _____.

One Year Bible Reading

June 14: 1 Kings 12:20-13:34, Acts 9:26-43, Psalm 132:1-18, Proverbs 17:6
June 15: 1 Kings 14:1-15:24, Acts 10:1-23, Psalm 133:1-3, Proverbs 17:7-8
June 16: 1 Kings 15:25-17:24, Acts 10:24-48, Psalm 134:1-3, Proverbs 17:9-11
June 17: 1 Kings 18:1-46, Acts 11:1-30, Psalm 135:1-21, Proverbs 17:12-13
June 18: 1 Kings 19:1-21, Acts 12:1-23, Psalm 136:1-26, Proverbs 17:14-15
June 19: 1 Kings 20:1-21:29, Acts 12:24-13:15, Psalm 137:1-9, Proverbs 17:16
June 20: 1 Kings 22:1-53, Acts 13:16-41, Psalm 138:1-8, Proverbs 17:17-18

June 13 & 14, 2015

PROMISES

Life Group Lesson • Week of June 14

This world can be a dark place. Though humanity was created in God's image—the human mind gravitates toward darkness when God is left out. And although there are glimpses of God's goodness, truth, and mercy all around us, the moment we refuse to acknowledge the Lord's light is the moment darkness begins to trickle in. We become our own god—right in our own eyes—and walk into the deception that we are somehow good apart from God.

Read John 8:1-20

1. Why did the teachers and Pharisees bring the woman to Jesus, according to v6?

Instead of answering immediately, Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust. How are you "demanding" answers from God these days? What is the Lord teaching you by not responding to your demands immediately?

Jesus says, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life" (John 8:12). Though Jesus is the light that leads to life, these religious leaders refuse to see Him for who He is. Adultery is wrong, but these religious leaders were in a more dangerous place than the woman caught in adultery. They were deceived by their own goodness.

2. How are some sins more evident than others?

What does Psalm 14 and Psalm 53 say about the goodness of man?

We must remember: "There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death" (Proverbs 14:12). Jesus said, "Your eye is a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is good, your whole body is filled with light. But when your eye is bad, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!" (Matthew 6:22-23).

One of the tricks of Satan is to counterfeit the light of Christ. According to the apostle Paul, there are some whose ambition is to undermine the work of Christ. "These people are false apostles. They are deceitful workers who disguise themselves as apostles of Christ." Paul goes on to say: "But I am not surprised! Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no wonder that his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness" (2 Corinthians 11:13-15a).

3. What is particularly alarming to you regarding Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 11:13-15?

The psalmist says: "The LORD is my light and my salvation—so why should I be afraid" (Psalm 27:1). As followers of Christ, we don't have to be afraid of false prophets, but we should be alert and understand there is a darkness at work in the world and even among "the religious".

4. How can we remain true to the work and purpose of Christ and live in the true light of His presence?

In Jesus' own words, how can we identify false prophets according to Matthew 7:15-20?

As Christ-followers we must be constantly aware of the dark corners of our own hearts. Jesus didn't condemn the woman, but He did say, "Go and sin no more!" Jesus is ready to forgive us when we come before Him. But we in turn must be ready to stop whatever it is that is keeping us locked in the grip of darkness. "God is light, and there is no darkness in Him at all" (1 John 1:5). We cannot allow ourselves to become like those to whom Jesus referred in John 3:20—"All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed." We must get away from the darkness and run to the One who is the light of the world.

5. Perhaps deep down you know there are dark places hidden in your heart. And though concealed before the public, you know you need to come clean before God. Why not confess this darkness to the Lord now? Ask Him to forgive you and help you walk in the light of His presence. (see 1 John 1:9)