

“Reflectors of Christ’s Light”

Text: Mark 1:29-39

As the Magi arrived in Jerusalem, they asked, “Where is he who is born King of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” (Matthew 2:2) This marks the beginning of the Epiphany season that we are in now. The season will end in several weeks with the Transfiguration. In St. Mark’s account, he tells us of Jesus, “His clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them.” (Mark 9:3) From beginning to end this season is about light, the light of Jesus Christ that is shown to the world.

In our gospel reading for today, that light shines out for all to see in the healing of diseases, his power over the devil, but mostly in his bringing the message of salvation, which is really his main purpose. Those other actions really aid or support his main purpose and show who he is, the Son of God, the Savior of the world. As people sought him in that day, so they do today as well. As you know him and believe in him you are called also to follow him and act as-

REFLECTORS OF CHRIST’S LIGHT

I. Remembering His work for us

II. His light is visible in our lives

I.

A. St. Paul writes: “For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness’, has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.” (II Corinthians 4:6) This is the true light that we have that can only be brought through our Savior Jesus Christ. It is evidenced in our lives through our faith. In the Old Testament, people knew that

seeing the face of God meant certain death. Several times God had to warn them of this reality. When Moses came down from Mt. Sinai there was radiance to his face because he had been in the presence of God. (Exodus 34:29)

While his presence still has that power, he has harnessed that power in the sending of our Savior Jesus Christ. Our Heavenly Father has revealed himself to us in loving forgiveness that Christ brings. Jesus said: “You are the light of the world.... Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works, and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”(Matthew 5:14, 16)

We must admit that at times our light does not reflect very well. Sin has the effect upon us. Our tempers can rule the day, we hurt others by what we say and do, even if our intentions may be good; and we blend in and become like everyone around us. Remember, we are simply reflectors; the real light comes from Jesus. We are all sinners, but the good news is that we are forgiven.

St. Mark tells us that Peter’s mother-in-law was ill with a fever and Jesus, in his compassion, healed her. The fever left her, and she got up to serve. That is a good goal for us as well. Healed of something greater than a fever, our sin, we are freed to serve. While we are still sinners, the great burden has been removed from us; we have that through the forgiveness that Jesus Christ has won for us by his death on the cross and his resurrection from the dead. The prophet Micah says: “He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities under foot. You will cast our sins into the depth of the sea.” (Micah 7:19) Like the fever of Peter’s mother-in-law, our sins are gone.

B. As she served so can we serve. The light of Jesus Christ shines through us. We have that assurance from the message of salvation that Jesus brought and completed with his own life given for us. Athletes who are in training often use weights in their training to make themselves stronger. Once they begin to run or perform they can throw off the weight and perform in a better way.

A weight has been removed from us as well and it is the burden of our sins. We don’t need to spend our energy on worry and guilt. The good news of the gospel is that God has attached

those sins to Jesus who took them to the cross for us. Because of his death and resurrection we have new life in him. The burden has been removed, the shadow erased, the light of Christ can now be reflected through us.

II.

A. The word of Christ shines through us in our lives as members of this congregation. St. Paul uses the illustration of a body to describe the Christian church. A functioning body is made up of many parts and the church and this congregation is as well. We often call the church the body of Christ. He is part of us and we are part of him.

That light is reflected as we relate to one another. We support one another with our words and prayers. I mentioned that in my most recent newsletter article. Especially during these last two years was that of special importance to me. Of course, please don't stop now. We pastors and teachers all covet your prayers and we in turn pray for you.

We also do that financially in the support of Trinity congregation. It is important for the present life of the congregation as well as for the future. Previous to being as pastor, as many of you know, I worked in the insurance profession. One of the approaches that we used to use was the expression, "Pay yourself first." This was not a call to selfish living, but rather to put away something for the future for your providing. Bills could certainly devour a person's income, as we know to well in these days.

As we are strengthened and moved by the word of Christ we do something very similar. As that is first in our lives that can be a wonderful witness to those around us. We live for now, but also for the future. Note that Jesus, in our text, moved away from the accolades of being a great healer, to his main focus. He says in verse 38: "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out."

As we follow his example to us we can be an example or reflected light for others to see. It can become all too easy for us to worry about what we will have for ourselves. Why not let the light

of Christ reflect out from us and live out our faith and trust in God to give us all we need and know how well he provides.

B. Our opportunities to witness are not only within the walls of this congregation, but outside in our neighborhoods and our jobs as well. This is really about all of our life, not just an isolated attempt to witness. That may be why it becomes difficult for us. There are many programs, courses and techniques that can aid us in that, and of course, that is fine. But it is really about our lives and what we believe.

Some years ago one of our members talked about her deceased brother who was always looking for ways to share Christ with others. On one occasion a friend of a man was terminally ill. She asked her pastor why God had not taken her home yet. His response was that through the strength of her faith, she might bring others to her Savior. You too may know of such instances.

The faith we possess is not because of our strength or our model life. It is all about the Savior who has come into our world, taken our sins upon him and shone to us the way of life. As we rejoice in what he has done for us, we embrace his promises and his life and shine forth to others what he has done for us. In Jesus' name. Amen.