

Walking in His Light

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1 The last two messages took us on an important journey—going from *Dark to Different*—reminded us that Jesus did not come to simply *improve* our lives, but to drastically *change* them—thereby rescuing us from the darkness and destruction of following the world.

2 Going on to *Different on Purpose* reminded us that this change was not *accidental* or *temporary*, but *intentional* and *continual*.

3 The Christian life is not built simply on *glad tidings of great joy* at Christmas but is built on the eternal truth of *Who* Jesus is; *What* He taught; and *Why* He commands us to follow Him.

1 The Light Began at Creation

4 Now we take the next step on that journey because being *different* after accepting Jesus as our Master must *lead* us somewhere.

5 It must lead to *obedience* of His words and doing the *will* of the Father. That is what *Walking in His Light* actually means.

6 A misunderstanding among many proclaimed Christians is that God's truth *began* when Jesus was *born*. Bethlehem is where the Light *entered* the world *visibly*—but not where it *began*.

7 AV **John 1:1** “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.*”

8 Before there was a *manger*, there was *majesty*—Before the *shepherds*, there was *sovereignty*--Before there was *Bethlehem*, there was *eternity*.

9 Jesus came to *reveal* the *Light* and *expose* the *dark*. The One who spoke the Sermon on the Mount is the One who spoke creation into existence.

10 The *authority* behind His teaching is divine truth! While He was teaching in Nazareth the people were astonished and asked NKJV **Matthew 13:54** “*Where did this Man get this wisdom and these mighty works?*”

11 The *words* from Jesus are *commands* from God spoken in human form, telling us to live godly lives according to these divine values in an ungodly world that does not value eternal truth.

2 Why the Sermon Matters

12 In Matthew 5, 6, and 7 Jesus does not *lower* the standard of righteousness—He *raises* it. Jesus does not just focus on our *external* behavior but addresses our *internal* attitude of our heart.

13 Five times Jesus said **Matthew 5:43** “*You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy. 44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which spitefully use you, and persecute you.*”

14 Jesus makes it clear that He has the *authority* only *God* would have. Jesus is not just a rabbi interpreting Scripture, He is *God the Son* commanding how people must live.

15 This Sermon on the Mount is a new way of *life* for those who are *Walking in His Light*.

16 Blessed are the poor in spirit
Blessed are the meek

Blessed are the merciful
Love your enemies
Pray in secret
Store treasures in heaven
Seek first the kingdom
Build your life on obedience

17 That is not a checklist *for* us—but a transformation *of* us. Following those instructions is what our daily life of faith in Christ should be.

18 It is how we will conduct our life when this eternal truth from God confronts our *decisions* and *attitudes* and *behavior*.

3 Choosing to Walk in the Light

19 Jesus says plainly “*You are the light of the world... let your light [so AV] shine before others, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven*” **Matthew 5:14,16** NIV.

20 Walking in the Light is not about perfection but about **direction**. It is choosing *obedience* even when it is not easy or doesn't come naturally.

21 It is *telling* the truth when *bending* it would be easier. It is choosing the *way of Christ* when the culture offers *another way*.

22 Light *reveals* things and *exposes* attitudes and motives. *Walking in the Light* can seem uncomfortable and even difficult at times, but darkness is risky and leads in the wrong direction to a wrong destination. The apostle says NKJV **1 John 1:7** “*But if we walk in the light as He is in the light.*”

23 The standard is: *as He is in the light*—not as the *world* defines light; Not as our *desires* define truth; but as **Jesus** defines it.

24 He also *lived* it so He could *reveal* it to us and the world. *Walking in the Light* enables us to

“have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

25 *Walking in the Light* means we present all our *opinions*, our *habits*, and our *desires* to the authority and the control of the Lord Jesus—He *rules* us.

26 We aren’t simply asking Him to *bless our path*—we are declaring our willingness to *follow His path!*

4 Obedience Is Proof of Faith

27 Jesus makes this sobering statement in concluding His Sermon—“*{Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven}*” NKJV **Matthew 7:21.**

28 This tells us that Words are not enough—they must be followed with *actions*. Outward religion is not enough; Emotional moments are not enough—it is **Obedience** that matters.

29 This is not earning salvation but showing that true faith **produces obedience.**

30 If Jesus is actually the *Lord of our life* and He *rules* our words and ways, then His words and His ways will *change* our attitudes.

31 Jesus then closes the sermon with an analogy that *cannot* be ignored: “*Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock*” **Matthew 7:24.**

32 Storms in our life will come to test our obedience and faith in God—Pressure will come; Culture will shift; But only one foundation holds faithfully to the end: **obedience to the words of Christ.**

5 Living His Truth Every Day

33 The world treats truth as flexible; as personal and negotiable, but Jesus did not come to leave a *flexible truth* with us, but to give us an *eternal truth* we are to live.

34 The world does not need more opinions—it needs **Light**. The church does not need more programs—it needs **obedience**; Believers do not need more information—they need **transformation**. Jesus did not come to only *forgive* us but to *change* us from the *inside out*.

35 From Bethlehem to Calvary and from the empty tomb to this moment—Jesus is calling us to live *differently*; to go from *Dark to Different*; and to be *Different on Purpose*—showing the world how Jesus told us to *live* and *act* and *treat* people.

36 It means—We *forgive* when the world resents – It means—We *love* when hatred seems justified – It means—We *pray* when the world says worry – It means—We *obey* even if obedience seems hard.

6 Walking is an Action Verb

37 Jesus did not come to just visit—He came to *live within* us.

38 He did not come to just *show* us our sin—He came *pay the price* for our sin—so we could be *forgiven* of all our sins.

39 He did not come to just *tell us* the truth—He came to *show* us the truth and to *leave us with a Gift* Who would “*guide us into all truth*” **AV John 16:13.**

40 We are not different because we are better—we are different because we *belong* to Him and are *committed* to obey His Truth.

41 The Light that walked the hills of Galilee now lives *in* us through His Spirit—*guiding* our walk each day and *shining* His Light of Truth every minute.

42 The Word that spoke the world into existence, now speaks to our heart in love—He speaks to our choices and reminding us to walk as children of light until He returns.

7 I know a Shortcut

43 Many have experienced driving to an unfamiliar location, and the GPS is saying what road to take and which way to turn. But we often think we know a better way, ignore GPS, and find ourselves stuck in traffic or down a dead-end road.

44 The GPS recalculates—but the problem wasn’t the GPS, it was our *ignoring* the *guidance* and *instructions* it gave.

45 Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount functions in a similar way. He doesn’t give us directions to *restrict* us—He gives them to get us ***where we’re meant to go!***

46 When we think ‘*I know what Jesus said, but...*’ we end up at a spiritual dead-end and spiritual progress hindered.

47 Obedience is trusting that the One who sees the *end from the beginning* knows the way home ***much better than we do!***



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