

The light of the world

One of my favorite passages from the scriptures is when Jesus goes around many cities, preaching the gospel, healing the ones that were sick, both physically and spiritually, and serving all people around him.

In Matthew 9:27-30 we read:

27 And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, *Thou* Son of David, have mercy on us.

28 And when he was come into the house, the ^ablind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, ^bBelieve ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord.

29 Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your ^afaith be it unto you.

30 And their ^aeyes were ^bopened;

I can barely imagine the feelings of these 2 people. Just think for a second: seeing light after they had been seeing darkness for all their lives. For these men, the day they were healed was the beginning of a whole new world.

Without a doubt, Jesus brought light to so many people through his selfless service. He made them see the world from a more positive perspective.

As followers of Christ we were commanded to do the same, to be the light of the world. In Matthew 5:12-16 we read,

14 Ye are the ^alight of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

15 Neither do men light a ^acandle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

16 Let your ^alight so shine before men, that they may see your good ^bworks, and ^cglorify your Father which is in heaven.

There are some phrases that I like from these verses:

First: “Ye are the light of the world”

In the previous verses, Jesus Christ also compares us with the salt of the earth. In which manner are we like salt or light?

We have to remember that in those days there was no electricity. Salt was used to accentuate flavors in meals but also to preserve food since there was no refrigeration. Candles and oil lamps were used to provide light. These objects, besides providing light also provided heat. In other words Jesus is addressing our responsibility to accentuate

good in the world, to preserve moral values, to help others see their way and to warm up our neighbor's heart.

Second: "cannot be hid."

We must not hide our light, nor even put it where is not visible. Edmund Burke stated, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." In addition, Martin Luther King said, "We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the hateful words and actions of the bad people but for the appalling silence of the good people." "History will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamor of the bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people."

Every time we decide not to act for good, we are actually deciding to advance the cause of evil.

Third: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works"

The only way to let our light shine is through good works, in other words: it is through service. In my life my dad has been a great example of service. Since I was a little kid, I have been listening to one of his same sayings: "Someone who does not live to serve does not function to live."

In Mark 10:43-44 we read

43 but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister:
44 And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.

Perhaps the greatest blessing we receive after serving is the feeling of having done something good. David O. McKay, an Latter-day Saint religious leader, once said, "The most worthy calling in life ... is that in which man can serve best his fellow man. ... The noblest aim in life is to strive to live to make other lives better and happier."

My challenge today is that each of us might be the light of the world. As we go on about our daily activities, think of those many people in the world that are living in darkness, or those who are suffering or maybe those who are just having a bad day; I can assure you won't have to look too hard. It is time for us to do something for them. It is true that "We cannot do everything for everyone everywhere, but we can do something for someone somewhere." That something might be to say hi to someone with a big smile or talk to someone in the street or listen to someone's pains or problems. Think how much easier our lives would be if each of us cared about helping one another.

I would like to end with the words of an hymn written by Will L. Thompson

Have I done any good in the world today?
Have I helped anyone in need?
Have I cheered up the sad and made someone feel glad?
If not, I have failed indeed.
Has anyone's burden been lighter today
Because I was willing to share?
Have the sick and the weary been helped on their way?
When they needed my help was I there?

There are chances for work all around just now,
Opportunities right in our way.
Do not let them pass by, saying, "Sometime I'll try,"
But go and do something today.
'Tis noble of man to work and to give;
Love's labor has merit alone.
Only he who does something helps others to live.
To God each good work will be known.