

Thursday of the Third Week in Ordinary Time - January 27, 2022

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Light has always been associated with good fortune, happiness and virtue ... whereas darkness has always been associated with ill fortune, gloom and evil.

In our Gospel reading from Mark ... Jesus asks: if a lamp Should be placed in such a place so that its light is hidden? And the obvious answer is: **Of course not!** That would defeat its purpose? What then does He mean? What lamp ... what light is He talking about? Mathew in **his** Gospel makes it **crystal** clear: Jesus says to His disciples: **You** are the light of the world!

Jesus came to be Light to a world that Satan endeavors to keep mired in darkness ... a **lamp** to lead all out from the darkness of sin. Jesus **never** hid His Light and He expects the same from us, His followers. He expects us to let **His** light shine for others through **us**. How do we do this?

First and foremost, we reflect His light ... or not ... by our behavior. How do we behave when we are **not** in church ... in our everyday lives? How do we behave in our workplaces ... when we are out with our friends ... when we are in our homes ... with our families ... or when everything seems to go wrong? Can others tell ... without being told ... that we are Christians! Do we reflect and shine His light?

Jesus ... by His life ... demonstrated to us the importance of charity to others which also brings light to hearts mired in the darkness of illness, despair and even death when that unceasing night seems so overwhelming. We as His followers ... are also meant to bring light to those mired in the darkness of need.

It seems like for the last two years Light has indeed been kept hidden under the bushel basket of Covid and not much of it has escaped to bring light to our lives! And it seems like this basket is not to be lifted in the near future. But we must keep our hearts focused on the light that is our Savior ... and ... ultimately ... even **this** dark night ... and all its variants ... will pass away and a new dawn will come.

But we have free will. We have a choice whether or not to respond to His invitation to reflect His light and hold it up for others to see. We can do our own thing and keep our light under a bushel basket or we can let His love light the way ...and ... **be** His light for a better world.