

## Morning Worship

April 22, 2018

Pastor — Allan Lane

Organ --- Alva Lou Schottel

Worship Leader — Don Beavers

Piano — Marcia Hart

**As you enter for worship, please silence your cell phones.**

(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

Chorus                      *Sanctuary*                      Don/People

Worship Prayer                      Allan Lane

Welcome and Fellowship                      Allan/People

Scripture Reading      Psalm 43:3-4                      Don/People

Hymn # 216      *O For A Thousand Tongues*                      Don/People

Hymn # 217      *Oh, How I Love Jesus*                      Don/People

Hymn      *The Light of the World Is Jesus*                      Don/People

Offering Prayer                      Fred Kerns

Tithes and Offerings                      People

Offering Music                      Marcia Hart

Children's Worship                      (Children are dismissed)

Scripture Reading      John 8:1-20                      Allan/People

Message                      *The Light of the World*                      Allan Lane

Hymn # 317                      *Only Trust Him*                      Don/People

Prayer Concerns                      Allan/People

Chorus # 33      *Hallelujah! Praise the Lamb*                      Don/People

## The Light of the World

John 8:1-20

Darkness can be a dangerous thing, especially when it comes to spirituality. In John 8 we find darkness abounding even at the dawning of a new day (verse 2). Those who heard Jesus were well familiar with the frequent Biblical connection between light and God. What they didn't understand was Jesus' explanation.

### **1. The Confrontation . (3-9)**

This is one of the more diabolical stories in the Bible and truly reveals the depth of decay, darkness, and depravity found in the hearts of men. Here we find the spiritual leaders of Israel (men who knew the law of God) intentionally plotting to trap Jesus by setting up a woman to be humiliated and even executed for their own personal cause. They were good religious men gone bad because their pathetic brand of religion was challenged and threatened by Jesus. They were men who claimed to know the Law of God, yet they didn't recognize the God of the Law standing right before them.

It is amazing how people respond when their religion gets challenged. But Christianity is not a religion, it's a relationship. Unfortunately though, these shenanigans still persist today among churchgoers. Well-meaning people doing things

in God's name God Himself wouldn't do. Instead of fighting for the truth and a genuine relationship with God, we fight for our religious comforts and traditions. It's amazing how low a person will stoop to protect their religion and how quickly they will sell out their relationship.

**a. The Plot .**

They put Jesus in a no win situation. They presented to Him a situation that he could not solve without either breaking Roman law or Jewish law.

**b. The Ploy .**

They brought him a woman caught in the act of adultery and asked him to judge her appropriately. Roman law forbade the Jews from condemning the adulterer while Jewish Law demanded that the adulterer be condemned unto death. So they waited for what they think is just the right time. It was early in the morning and a good size crowd had gathered to hear Jesus speak. They were thinking how they could defame, discredit, and diminish Jesus in front of everyone. They were smug with their fool-proof plan. Self-righteous people generally think that way. They can't see past the plank in their own eyes – and little did they know they were setting themselves up for a fall.

**c. The Predicament .**

Here we must ask a couple questions. First, where was the man? It takes two to tango. The obvious trap didn't fool Jesus. They didn't think their plan through very well. They were so intent on getting Jesus they didn't realize they were sabotaging themselves. Hatred, revenge, and anger – basic dislike and distrust – will usually do this to a person. They'll cause you to do or say something that you'll either regret or it will cause you to do something rashly that will incriminate yourself. (Sounds like the mainstream media of our day.)

The second question isn't quite as obvious because it comes in the form of a statement from Jesus. Jesus is under fire from the religious so he stoops down and writes in the dirt. They press Him so he nails them.

When is it ever okay to sin? Jesus asks – Is it ever justifiable to commit a sin to reveal a perceived sin? Is it ever permissible to break the law to prove the law? Some people think so, such as the man who blows up an abortion clinic. But to God it's never okay. Many have often wondered what Jesus could have possibly written in the sand. We can only speculate but it probably included something from the Word of God. Only the Word of God has the authority to rightfully judge sin.

In the book of Deuteronomy the Bible tells us that if a man brings a false witness with the intent of incriminating an innocent man, he has just committed a sin punishable unto death. According to the Law the Pharisees had broken the law and both they and Jesus knew it.

This particular text may not be about judging others as some have tried to use it, but Jesus clarifies that in the following verses (14-18). It's about the deceptive and depraved nature of man trying to snuff out the light of truth. If you're interested in the rules for judging, look at Matthew 7:1-5. When is it permissible to judge? Only after you have rightly judged yourself and have realized your own nature to sin and can judge a situation redemptive. It's only permissible when we can judge as God judges.

Notice how Jesus deals with their sin. He confronts it and condemns their tactics. They knew the law and knew they had broken it and Jesus called them on it. Yet as He confronts them He doesn't condemn them. Instead, He extends grace.

**2. The Revelation . (10-11)**

Notice that Jesus deals with her with grace and honor. He spoke to her with respect. Depending on your translation the word used may vary. He could have called her a tramp or whore and that might have been accurate. Instead He treated her with acceptance, love and grace. He treated her with redemption. Jesus always deals with sin the same way. He loves the sinner but hates the sin.

We also learn about His grace. Jesus in no way condoned her sin, yet he didn't condemn her either. Rather He exposed her to the light of His truth and invited her to embrace it. He released her from the bondage of her sin debt and commissioned her to walk in the light of truth, that is, to go and sin no more. This is God's desire for us – that we embrace the light of God's truth and walk away as a changed people.

### **3. The Declaration . (1-2, 12)**

According to verses 1-2 the day for Jesus began early in the morning at the Temple to teach and minister to the multitudes. It was the morning after the final evening of the Feast of Tabernacles – a feast to commemorate the pillar of fire that led the Israelites at night through the wilderness. The feast involved two ceremonies – the pouring out of water to commemorate the water that came from the rock and the illumination of the temple.

At the beginning of the feast, huge candelabras were lit in the temple at night and elevated high above the temple courts illuminating the area. This was done to remind the people of God's guiding light of promise. The light represented the Shekinah glory of God, His very presence.

It's interesting that the very moment the light of the feast was extinguished, Jesus, the true light of the world, shows up in all of His glory.

Don't miss the point. They've just extinguished the lights commemorating God's presence and the hope of the Messiah's return, yet they don't have a clue the Messiah was in their midst. They were a people wailing in darkness. Then Jesus speaks up and declares He is the light of the world. Whoever follows Him will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. He is the light that leads us to the land of promise. He is the light that exposes the darkness around us and reveals the truth of God. He is the light that is available to all men whether Greek or Jew. We are all blind by nature, but in Christ a remedy has been offered to rescue and free us from the darkness allowing us to share in the true light. He is a light that points us in the right direction, protects us in times of trouble, and provides for us in times of need.

#### **a. Jesus declares God's Presence .**

C. S. Lewis said "I believe in Christ like I believe in the sun. Not only because I can see it, but because by it all things are seen."

#### **b. Jesus discloses God's Protection .**

Psalm 43:3

A grandfather was walking in the woods with his grandson. The grandfather asked the boy, "Do you know where we are?" "No granddad," the boy replied. The grandfather then asked, "Do you know we are going?" "No granddad." Then the grandfather said, "Well then, I guess you are lost." The boy smiled, "No granddad. I'm not lost. I am with you."

#### **c. Jesus divulges God's Provision .**

Matthew 4:16

Jesus, the great I am, came into the world to expose the darkness and reveal the truth of God. He came to heal our blindness and redeem us through His grace. He is the light of the world, the single source of truth from God.

### **Conclusion**

The first words of God recorded in the Bible are: "Let there be light." Later we find that "God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all" (1John 1.5). Darkness universally symbolizes sin and death; light corresponds to life and holiness and purity. Thus King David sings (around 1000 B.C.): "The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?"

God's word (Psalm 119.105, 1Peter 2.9, Revelation 21.23) and presence are more than enough to light our way. Those who heard Jesus were well familiar with the frequent Biblical connection between light and God. Do we make the connection?

Here is Jesus saying, "I am the light of the world." He has exposed the sin of the scribes and Pharisees who brought the woman guilty of adultery. Because they were just as guilty as she, they had to run away. When one turns on the light, all the rats, and bats, and the bedbugs crawl away. Light exposes sin, which is the reason the scribes and Pharisees had to leave.

Christians are to be recognized as God's children. We are also lights in the world. Christ is the Light of the World and His followers are luminaries or light-bearers reflecting His light. The picture we get is that of a procession at night, in a crooked and distorted time, in which torch-bearers are going out and holding high the blazing torches, so that those that follow can see how to walk in this sin-darkened world.

### ***Jesus Is The Single Source of Truth!***

## **Will You Take The Risk?**

Imagine if the church truly embraced the Great Commission and trained believers to take the Gospel to a broken world in spite of our limitations and inadequacies. Imagine what it would look like if those who sat in the pew on Sunday were intentionally sowing Gospel seeds all week. Imagine if the average believer were trained to turn everyday conversations into Gospel conversations.

The average person has twenty-seven conversations per day. A recent study revealed that both men and women utter an average of about sixteen thousand words each day. We can talk about sports, weather, clothes, shoes, movies, and TV shows. We're even willing to debate the nuances of politics, the intricacies of health issues, or the complexities of national economic matters. However, when it comes to bringing up the simple gospel, we shy away. We break out in hives, our palms sweat, our tongues are tied, and we find ourselves talking about everything but the Gospel. The idea of injecting Jesus into our conversations causes great anxiety and fear for ordinary believers and pastors alike.

Many believers are afraid that Gospel conversations will be confrontational or argumentative. We think we have to be trained for every possible theological perspective we may encounter before we can share the Gospel. We're often overwhelmed by the need to memorize a dozen verses or anxious that someone might ask a question we can't answer. Sadly, sharing the Gospel has lost its simplicity. It doesn't have to be this way. Imagine if we made those Gospel conversations a part of our everyday lives. How would our churches be different?

We cannot afford to sit idly by and watch as people perish around us. While I haven't researched this, a famous evangelist said the New Testament tells of forty people, each suffering from the same disease, were healed by Jesus. Of this number, thirty-four were either brought to Jesus by friends, or He was taken to them. Only six cases out of forty show the sufferers finding their way to Jesus without someone's assistance.

Did you know that of the great amount of people who find their way to Jesus today, most of them reach Him because the friends of Jesus are concerned about the welfare of their souls, because someone was willing to take a risk for Jesus. Someone once said it this way: "If this generation is lost, it is not because Satan is more powerful or has something better to offer. It will be because the church didn't show up for the battle."

Perhaps you are reading this thinking, "Oh no, you are talking about inviting people to church. You don't understand. I am not an evangelist. I don't know enough to share my faith."

I don't have the most intriguing testimony of coming to faith. Actually I still struggle with my own faith, daily. I don't want to offend my friends or family. I don't want people to think I am weird or some fanatic."

If that is how you are feeling, I totally agree with you. I'm not a natural evangelist either. It doesn't come naturally or comfortably for me to share my faith with others either. I love my family and my friends and the last thing I want to do is be offensive toward them. But we need to be reminded that when it comes to our faith, there are times we have to do things that are uncomfortable. God knows our heart, mind, and motives. Because He does, He will not be tricked by empty, ME-centered worship.

We must be careful to pursue a healthy relationship with our Savior more than we pursue what He can give us. It is easy to fall into the trap of wanting the blessings of God, the hand of God in your life, and the miracles of God. But we must not ever forget that the true treasure we ought to seek more than a change in our circumstance is His daily presence in our lives. It is easy to come to church and be a believer. It is harder to be the church and live as a disciple.

Jesus didn't give His life on the cross so we could have a better day. He came to lay down His life to forgive our sin, so that we can enter a relationship with Him. He never came just to give us more stuff and more money. He came to draw us closer to Himself in a loving relationship and then have us share that with others.

It starts with me! "For the time has come for judgment to begin with God's household, and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who disobey the Gospel of God?" (1 Peter 4:17-18, HCS).

It is easy to be a Pharisee and simply instruct others on following the Gospel. It is easy to complain about a lack of prayer and 10 commandments in schools, abortion in society, domestic partnerships, and increasing drug use. Peter understood that. Before Jesus crucifixion, Peter was quick to agree that others may fall away from Jesus, but stated that he would never fall away. Yet he did. He was quick to step out of the boat in faith, and just as quick to sink in the waters below. He knew how easy it was to judge others, but Peter had grown. An older, more humble and mature Peter reminds us in 1 Peter 4, where God's judgment ought to begin. It's not in Hollywood, in the government, in the schools, or on television channels. Instead, Peter says, "The time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God."

Peter reminds us that before the church can change the world, Christ needs to change the church. Before Christ can change the church, Jesus needs to change me.

It has been said that a revival does not happen when the people out there (in the world) begin to act like us in here (in the church), but when we in here (in the church), begin to live like Jesus, out there (in the world). In other words, if a great flame for God will sweep this land, it does not start as a great fire, but as a small spark. It begins with you and me getting up and taking the risk.

God Bless You!

*Bro. Allan*

## **Opportunities For Service**

**Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan**

**Sunday, April 22, 2018**

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School ..... 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ? ? , Ken Nice, Don Sharp, Fred Kerns

Alternate: ? ? ? ?

Diversicare Services... 2:30 pm

No Evening Services

**Wednesday, April 25**

Prayer / Bible Study ....6:30 pm

Worship Team ..... 7:30 pm

**Thursday, April 26**

VBS Orders Due at SJBA Mission Center

**Sunday, April 29, 2018**

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Larry McKahan, Ken Kirkpatrick, Bill Schottel

Alternate: Ken Nice

SJBA Semi-Annual Meeting ..... 4:00 pm

Need a Ride? The Van will leave at 3:15 pm.

No Evening Services.....

**Monday, April 30**

SS Workers Mtg.....6:30 pm

**Wednesday, May 2**

Prayer / Bible Study.... 6:30 pm

Worship Team ..... 7:30 pm

**Up-Coming Events.....**

**April 22 — Diversicare 2:30 pm**

**April 29 — Semi-Annual Meeting, FBC Maysville**

**May 3 — Senior Adult Event**

**May 7 — Food Kitchen**

**May 9 — Prayer Warriors**

**May 13 — Mother's Day**

**GROW Team**

Commit to **GROW! Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

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**Sunday Nights**

We will not have Sunday night services tonight at 6:30 pm. However, when we meet again (in May) we will begin a study entitled: ***A Case for***

***Faith*** with Lee Strobel. Don't miss it!

### **Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study**

Come pray for the direction of our church. Please plan to attend and pray at 6:30 pm and enjoy a time of fellowship and Bible Study.

### **Diversicare Nursing Home**

**Today, April 22, 2:30 pm**

Please join us as we  
minister to those who can no longer attend their  
own churches.

SJBA  
Semi-Annual Meeting  
April 29, 2018  
4:00 pm

First Baptist Church, Maysville

Messengers: Vicki Long, Ellen Lane, Gina Harr, Don Beavers, Betty Campbell, Allan Lane.

### **Mark Your Calendars Now!**

♦ **June 11-15**

Youth Camp

♦ **July 16-20**

Children's Camp

♦ **August 18**

Men's Conference

Frederick Boulevard Baptist Church

**Mother's Day is May 13**

***For the Record-***

**Attendance: April 15, 2018**

Sunday School.....	16
Visitors.....	1
Total.....	17
Contacts Made.....	11
Morning Worship.....	27
Children's Worship.....	N/A
Wednesday Night .....	7

### **Financial Record:**

Weekly Budget .....	\$ 2,286.39
Offering Received ...	\$ 769.35
Annie Armstrong.....	\$ 1,840.00
Long Family - April...	\$ 110.00

### **Offering Received by Mail:**

Nellie Reynolds

### **April Counting Team:**

Don Beavers and Jordan Lane

### **April Van Driver:**

Mike Green

Remember to call 232-3747  
before 8 am if you need a ride.

### **April Member Birthdays:**

05... Datha Dillon  
13... Alice Coats  
15... Larry McKahan  
25... Jo Mayse  
30... Nikki Garber

### **April Anniversaries**

Joe and Pam Battreal  
April 17, 1999

Bill and Juanita Haskins  
April 17, 1948

Joseph and Alice Coats  
April 29, 2000

### ***Prayer Requests ...***

Mike Green—infection in knee  
Larry McKahan—infection  
Sharri Duty—surgery recovery  
Swymeler's Grandsons—kidney issues  
Jessica Kirkpatrick and baby Levi  
Donna and Bill Dunn—health  
Joyce Cook—health  
Jack and Flo Conard  
Peggy & Gary Fewins—Peggy's health



Arlette Duty—strength  
Gina Harr—strength  
Don Beavers—heart and health  
Curtis Conard—recovery  
Emily Jones & baby Liam  
Cynthia Burdick—cancer recovery  
Karissa and Matt Long and family  
The Waters Family—guidance  
Stephanie & Jason Terpack  
Shawna Hughes—recovery  
Larry Danner—cancer  
Rosella Davis—Flo Conard’s sister  
Mary Sharp’s brother-in-law Jim  
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae’s son  
Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo’s daughter  
LoLeta Middleton—strength  
Elvera’s daughter & daughter-in-law  
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson’s sister  
Rev. A. B. Brown     Betty Campbell  
George Ferbert     Kevin Duty  
Ellen Blanton     Lois Ulmer  
Jim Winans     Nellie Reynolds  
Madeline Swink     Ann Riddle  
Kathryn Beavers     Keon McKahan  
Jozy Winans     Kenny Duty  
Pat Means     Buddy Means  
Bill & Juanita     Debbie Sands  
Pat Puckett     Judy Anderson  
Brenda Burgess     Roscoe Lane  
Carolyn Houts     Tim Izer  
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church  
David and Deborah Grace  
Our Nation and Leaders  
Our Military Service people  
**Today’s Prayer Requests ...**

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**Our Nation and our Leaders ...**

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**Five More New Families...**

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