



said, **“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid”** (Matt. 5:14). In so doing, we can assure our hearts before Him, and also bring glory to our Father who is in Heaven as the Lord has promised, **“Let your light so shine before men,**

that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (cf. 1 Jn. 3:19; Matt. 5:16). The world has never known a greater Light than our Lord, and we can only reflect that light in our own lives, for only He is **“the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world”** (Jn. 1:9).

Brethren, the night cometh. Let us resolve to act accordingly, and do the work the Master has given us before the sun sets on our life so that we may be found faithful servants. Let us shine our lights until our dying breath or until the Lord comes to bring us home.



Faithful Sayings Issue 14.15 April 8, 2012

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Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.
Please come again.

● Let us know if you have any questions.

ISSUE

14.15

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

April 8
2012



Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM
10:20 AM
6:00 PM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Pat Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Kyle Pope

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Bill Davis
Steve Dixon
Pat Goguen
Jack Langley
Neil Ledbetter
Brady McAlister
Walker McAnear
Lance Purcell
Rusty Scott

Evangelists:

Kyle Pope
Jason Garcia

“The Night Cometh”

By Jason Garcia

Our Lord, along with His apostles, uttered **“words of sober truth”** during His time on Earth (Acts. 26:25 KJV). During the short three years in which He went about teaching men, He knew that He had been given a set amount of time to do His Father’s will, and took every opportunity to do so with utmost urgency. Being the selfless man that He was, I am persuaded that every thought, every action, and every moment of His life was dedicated to the service of others, and He did so until He departed (Matt. 20:28). He sought to instill these same principles into His disciples and, on one occasion, used a familiar illustration to do so. As we read in John 9, just before healing a blind man, Jesus says, **“I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in the world,**

I am the light of the world” (Jn. 9:4-5). In these words the Lord predicts (indirectly) His own death and teaches His disciples that, universally, “no man can work” when the night cometh. So, with good reason, we should ask ourselves if we are working as the Lord did, and filling our time with service to Him and others.



Olsen Park church of Christ

We must recognize that we have little time to do the works of God. We are given the *day* of life in which to do His work and once our sun goes down, there are no second chances, no do-overs, no more opportunities to do what we should have been doing all along. The Spirit says, **“Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest”** (Ecc. 9:10). We may lay our plans for life carefully and pursue them diligently, but if we do so without God in mind, then we have only regret to look forward to. Tomorrow is never a guarantee, for we **“know not what shall be on the morrow”** and our life is **“even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away”** (Jas. 4:14). We do not know when our day shall end, and neither do we know when Christ shall return.

Our night may come at death, but we must always remember with regard to the Lord’s coming that **“of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven”** but only the Father who is Heaven (Matt. 24:36). Even those who may be confident that their health and vigor will not expire for some time should appreciate that, even so, they cannot predict when the Son of God will come to

judge the world, effectively ending our *day* early (Heb. 9:28). The language of Scripture consistently describes the abrupt, unexpected timing of that day, likening it to a thief that comes in the night (cf. 1 Thess. 5:2). Furthermore, the Lord assures us that only the **“faithful servant”** who is found to have increased what God has blessed him with (whether great or small) will hear the words **“enter thou into the joy of thy Lord”** (Matt. 25:23). Given these two unknown factors: our own death, and the time of the Lord’s coming, is it any wonder that the Gospel instructs us to be ready at all times?

The Lord had much to say about readiness—being prepared for His coming. If we had to sum up the teachings of Matthew chapter 25 in two words we’d have to say, “Be ready!” Jesus, in telling the story of ten maidens preparing for a wedding feast, concludes this teaching by saying, **“Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh”** (Matt. 25:13). Within this parable only five were ultimately prepared when the time came to go into the wedding feast, the other five were not.

Those unprepared were left scrambling to find a way to get ready because of their own negligence, even going so far as to ask those who were prepared to share some of their preparations (which they could not give). The glaring point is this: No one can make preparations for us, but each one of us must make ready as individuals. How do we accomplish this? Only by being faithful, productive servants. Remember Jesus’ words from our original context: **“As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world”** (Jn. 9:5).

As servants of our Master, we have been called to be His lights in the world just as He has