

“A Lit Lamp!”

1. Intro:

- 1.1. Pastor Larry's Ordination – 1 Tim.4:12-16.
- 1.2. **Story** - A man was driving through a **mining region** one Sunday when he noticed a large number of **mules** in an open field. When he inquired about this unusual sight, he was told that **the work animals had been brought up from the dark passages below to preserve their eyesight. Unless they were regularly exposed to the sunlight, they would eventually go blind.** The Christian needs similar experiences to keep him from losing his spiritual vision.
- 1.3. **Recap ch.11** - They **saw Him pray & they desired the secret; He gave them the model & showed them that the ultimate in prayer is the reception of the Spirit initially & continuously; *The Holy Spirit* is the secret of power over demons; the secret of kinship w/God; & the secret of the greatest sign** (i.e. *death, burial, & res* revealed at Pentecost when H.S. gave understanding).

2. A LIT LAMP! (33-54)

- 2.1. The function of a lit lamp is?...so others might see the light.
- 2.2. God's word often uses the **eye** to represent **the attitudes of the mind**, because an eyeball in itself **can't be bad morally!** (it is "amoral" = outside the scope of morality)
 - 2.2.1. Pr 28:22 **"A man with an evil eye hastens after riches, And does not consider that poverty will come upon him."**
- 2.3. Jesus has used this popular proverb once already in 8:16.
 - 2.3.1. In 8:16 He taught them their responsibility concerning **others**.
 - 2.3.2. Here in 11:33 their responsibility concerning **personal life**.
- 2.4. The lamp of the body is the eye -
 - 2.4.1. He **didn't say** that **the eye** is the **light** of the body.
 - 2.4.2. **Eyes** are no good for seeing unless there is **light**.
 - 2.4.3. Equally true, that **light** is no good for seeing, unless we have **eyes**.
 - 2.4.4. A man with **no eyesight & plenty of light** around him can't see; and neither can a man with **perfect eyesight with no light**.
 - 2.4.5. The eye then is **the instrument** of light!
 - 2.4.5.1. **Why do our eyes dilate?** (let more light in) [L. dilatare, to expand]
 - 2.4.5.2. **Good eyes**(clear/healthy) - focuses properly & truly.
 - 2.4.5.3. **Bad eyes**(evil/unhealthy) – might have a visual defect, blurred vision, or shortsightedness.
 - 2.4.6. **An evil eye** distorts the light that is trying to enter.
 - 2.4.7. **A clear eye** becomes a lamp permitting the light to shine w/in us.

- 2.4.8. The **light** is *the Spirit of God*.
- 2.4.8.1. 1 Cor.2:9,10 “No **eye** has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him” - but God has **revealed it to us by his Spirit.**”
- 2.4.9. The **eye** then is the instrument through which light becomes effective.
- 2.5. **Camera Illustration** – A camera lens is all about **letting light in** a controlled way.
- 2.5.1. **Photography** – *phos*/light & *graphis*/drawing; “drawing with light”.
- 2.5.2. **Shutter speed** – Time shutter holds open.
- 2.5.3. **Aperture** – Diameter shutter opens to. (hands in large ‘O’ position, then collapse)
- 2.5.4. **In Photography** - It’s all about light...& I’m in control!
- 2.5.5. **In my spiritual life** - It’s all about light...& I’m in control!
- 2.5.6. When we **sin** we **hinder** God’s light from shining in our hearts!
- 2.5.7. The **eye** is the lamp of the body; & our **actions** are guided by the fact.
- 2.5.7.1. “**Have no part dark**”
- 2.6. **The function of a lit lamp was?**...so others might see the light(33).
Thus the importance of **Spiritual light** allowed into our bodies(or lives) is so we might have **spiritual perception** & that **others may see**.
- 2.6.1. Opposite of “*that generation*” who had **no spiritual perception!** (31,32)
- 2.7. **Recommended Action?**
- 2.8. **Q:** Is your lens **cap on**? **Q:** Is your lens **dirty**?
Q: Can you identify what’s **hindering** you from letting in more light into your life?
Q: Do you find yourself in places where the **light level** is **too dim**?

3. **PHARISEES! (37-44)**

- 3.1. **A MESSY MESSIAH?** (37,38)
- 3.2. Jesus, you didn’t wash your hands... “*our way!*”
- 3.3. Was He invited to a luncheon or a lynchin`?
- 3.4. **EXTERNALISM!** (39-41)
- 3.5. Here was their supreme fault & failure: Attention to **Externalism**, to the neglect of the **Internal** condition of their life.
- 3.5.1. Their **inward part** is full of **greed**(extortion) & **wickedness**.
- 3.6. Clean surface...dirty underneath!
- 3.6.1. **Ex:** Like my doghouse carpet(explain).
- 3.7. (41) Give alms(charity) of what is **inside**, or from your **heart** -
- 3.8. “Dedicate to God what was **within**” & then everything else would be right.
- 3.8.1. It’s a **heart matter** for you this morning also!

- 3.9. **WOE #1- Inversion of Values!** (42)
- 3.10. **Woe?** – It infers grief & deep regret. [Anguish, not anger]
- 3.10.1. It is rendered “alas” (to express sorrow or pity).
- 3.10.2. “Jesus’ purpose for these **woes** was to expose the sins of the Pharisees & Lawyers to try to **help them & the people** adversely influenced by them.”¹
- 3.11. They put the emphasis upon the **trivial** & neglected the **essentials**.
- 3.11.1. **Q: Have you ever majored in trifles but ignored what was really important?**
- 3.11.2. I picture them laid out in their gardens, making sure they counted every little herb leaf,...but never heard the neighbors cry for help next door.
- 3.12. **Way before Tina Turner, the Pharisees** were the 1st to sing “**What’s Love got to do with it?**”
- 3.12.1. **Justice** is rendering to every one that which is his due.
- 3.12.1.1. Still do the **right** thing...but **love** is at the top!
- 3.12.2. **The Love of God** – such & sweet & simple phrase.
- 3.12.2.1. How do we do it?...**w/all of our heart, soul, & mind. With all that we are. With every part of our being. With all of our attitudes.**
- 3.13. Christians don’t confuse what is **surface Christianity** with what is **plunging the depths**.
- 3.13.1. **Surface** = doing the basics, coming to church, tithing, etc.
- 3.13.2. **Depths** = the love of God!!!
- 3.13.2.1. To find out if one is a genuine Christian, shouldn’t it be geared around whether they love God, & not what they’re doin for Him?
- 3.14. **WOE #2 – Evil Motives!** (43)
- 3.15. Woe to those who expect **box seats** at church, & people to **fawn all over you** in town!
- 3.15.1. Bottom line...their motive was **self-centered, self-promoting**.
- 3.16. When **Ptolemy**, outstanding astronomer and mathematician of the second century, decided to build the Pharos, he chose **Sostratus** to design that mammoth lighthouse which later became one of the Seven Wonders of the World. **Ptolemy insisted that the structure should bear his inscription as a personal memorial**; however, Sostratus didn't think the king should get all the credit. He therefore put the title of Ptolemy on the front of the lighthouse in a thick plaster which would be eye catching at first, but later would be worn away by the elements. Secretly he had cut his own name in the granite underneath. For decades the sea dashed against the inscription and gradually eroded it. Though it lasted the lifetime of that earthly

¹ Shepherd’s Notes; Luke 11.

monarch, it finally was obliterated, leaving the name "Sostratus" standing in bold relief! In like manner, **worldly fame** often disappears before the relentless waves of time.

3.17. **WOE #3 – Corrupting Influence!** (44)

3.18. They were unconsciously exerting a **corrupt influence** to all who were following their lead.

3.18.1. Contact with a **grave** caused defilement.

Contact with these **Pharisees** did likewise!

4. **SCRIBES! (45-54)**

4.1. **Scribe or Lawyer** - After the Captivity, the scribes turned their attention to the law, gaining for themselves distinction by their **intimate acquaintance** with its contents. [Torah Teachers]

4.1.1. On them devolved the duty of **multiplying copies of the law** and of **teaching it to others**.

4.1.2. In NT times the scribes belonged to the sect of the Pharisees, who **supplemented** the ancient written law **by their traditions**, thereby obscuring it and rendering it of none effect.

4.2. **WOE #1 – Denunciation of Insincerity!** (45,46)

4.3. (45) Hey...that sounds like us too!...“Well, if the sandal fits...”

4.4. They **crushed** men with their **heavy load of legalism**

4.5. They **trampled** them with their **godless traditions**.

4.5.1. **And they weren't even living by their own code!**

4.6. **WOE #2 - Hypocrisy!** (47-51)

4.7. This was satire(irony, sarcasm)

4.7.1. “Their fathers killed the prophets, & they put monuments up to killed prophets, & went on w/the same business of killing prophets.”²

4.8. **Abel & Zachariah** - Chronicles was **last book** in Hebrew Old Testament.

4.8.1. **See 2 Chron.24:20,21.**

4.8.2. The **whole range** of OT history is thus indicated.

4.9. **WOE #3!** (52-54)

4.10. They **key** was the insignia of their office.

4.10.1. Lawyers/Scribes – interpreters of the moral Law.

4.10.2. You've hid the key your “office” loaned you, & now won't even let others in.

4.11. I sure hope our friends & neighbors don't see **our religion** the same way, when they look at ours!

4.12. **End:** The secret is **the Spirit** as light; & **the spirit of my own life** single in its devotion.

² G. Campbell Morgan; pg.150