

*“Sanctified Shadows!”*

## 1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. **Veterans Day** – A time to honor **24.9 million** military veterans in the U.S.
  - 1.1.1. We’d like **to thank** our veterans for their service; - **to acknowledge** that their contributions to United States **national security** are **appreciated**; **and to underscore** the fact that all those who served (*not only those who died*) have **sacrificed** and **done their duty**.
- 1.2. **Let me add 1 thing** to our discussion on finances last week: “20 cents of every 1 of your dollars this last year **went out**.”
  - 1.2.1. **We use the graduated tithe** I talked about. When we can, we up our giving 1% a year. We’re up to 18% right now, but actually gave 20%.
  - 1.2.2. So, as you give here, know that **20 cents out of every dollar** is going straight towards helping those in need, or to the promotion of the gospel to the uttermost parts!
- 1.3. **Last week:** The contrast between Barnabas & Ananias & Sapphira.
  - 1.3.1. **“We learned we make decisions, & then our decisions turn around & make us.”** F.W. Boreham
  - 1.3.2. The early church needed a profound revelation of the **nature of sin & the holiness of God**.
- 1.4. **Intro:** When it comes to **navigation**, some of us are **map people**, some are **landmark people**,...and some are **hopeless!**
  - 1.4.1. **Map people** like a nice visual representation, with street names and arrows.
  - 1.4.2. **Landmark people** want...“*go to the McDonalds and turn left. Our house is green with purple windows, on the right hand side.*”
- 1.5. Now on **Google Maps** you can have **both!** [Both maps & satellite (called Hybrid)]
- 1.6. **And on the path of life...God gives both!**
  - 1.6.1. We have His **Written Word**, which gives us **clear directions**.
  - 1.6.2. He also gives us **Landmarks, signs** that indicate which path we’re on.

## 2. **SANCTIFIED SHADOWS! (12-16)**

- 2.1. **Read** their prayer in **4:29,20** [12-16 is now that prayer answered]
- 2.2. **Dealing with sin** in the church often **results** in **new power** for the church.
- 2.3. (13) **Can you imagine a church so spiritual that people were afraid to join them?**
  - 2.3.1. **The rest** – probably referred to certain outsiders who were so impressed at the doings in the new infant church, as to fear to join such a body.

- 2.4. (15) **Shadow** – Eastern thought: If there was an **evil influence** in a man, people would flee from his shadow; **yet** if they had an **influence for good**, they would try to come into his shadow. (G. Campbell Morgan)
- 2.5. **Wow! They thought even his shadow had power!**  
 2.5.1. I have a hard enough time being **sanctified on the inside**, let alone **my shadow** being **sanctified** for God to use! 😊
- 2.6. **Turn to 2 Cor.4:6,7 – Treasure/earthen vessel.**  
 2.6.1. If you only look at **us**, you might well miss the brightness. We carry this **precious Message** around in the **unadorned clay pots** of our ordinary lives. That's to prevent anyone from confusing **God's incomparable power with us**. (Message)  
 2.6.2. The valuable & expensive **Treasure** is contained in *weak, fragile, & valueless containers*.  
 2.6.3. I guess He wants people to see our **cracks & flaws**, instead of a **new shiny container?**  
 2.6.4. Paul reminds us we have within us as believers “**a great treasure**” that is contained in common **jars of clay**. It's a reminder of **our own unworthiness**, compared with the grandeur of **HIM** inside us.  
 2.6.5. God 1<sup>st</sup> came covered **in a cloud**; then, covered **in flesh** (Incarnation); now, is covered **in us**...“**Christ in you, the hope of glory!**”
- 2.7. God intended this **sharp contrast** so that no one would question the source of the **healing**, or the source of the **gospel** and its all-surpassing power.  
 2.7.1. The bearer of the message, **or** the “healer” of the one healed, is a **mere mortal person**. (3:12)  
 2.7.2. **Healings** are the work of **God** not men. **Salvation** is the work of **God** not men.  
 2.7.2.1. Thus there was really **no virtue in Peter's shadow**;  
*Divine power alone, through faith, brought healing.*

### 3. **HIM, GOD HAS EXALTED! (17-32)**

- 3.1. (17) **4** different reactions from the religious opposition:  
 3.1.1. [1] They were filled w/**indignation**/jealousy (17).  
 3.1.2. [2] They **wondered** what the outcome would be (24).  
 3.1.3. [3] They **feared** the people lest they were stoned (26).  
 3.1.4. [4] They were **furious & plotted to kill them** (33).
- 3.2. (28) Interesting, the high priest **didn't** say anything about the **Apostles escape**... Maybe out of embarrassment?  
 3.2.1. Formal charges are brought this time.  
 3.2.2. They were accused of disobeying the Sanhedrin's specific orders.

- 3.3. (29) 1<sup>st</sup> time only Peter & John, now all of them.
- 3.3.1. **In speech** they were bold; **in heart** they were courageous; **In soul** they were trustful; **in will** they were determined.<sup>1</sup>
- 3.4. **We ought to obey God rather than men...** is the only position to hold when you have the **Word of God** on your side.
- 3.4.1. **Just be sure it is conviction & not just opinion!**
- 3.5. (30,31) What God thinks of Christ! – **Him God has exalted.**
- 3.5.1. **Prince** – means ruler who also is a leader.
- 3.5.2. **Savior** – Saving us from our...
- 3.5.2.1. **Past** (deliverance from **penalty & guilt of sin**, & is complete)
- 3.5.2.2. **Present** (deliverance from **power & love of sin** & is a **process**, is **gradual**, & is **continuous**)
- 3.5.2.3. **Future** (deliverance from the **presence & the result of sin**, & is a **certain hope**)
- 3.5.2.4. *My favorite verse this week:* Heb.10:14 “**For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.**”
- 3.5.3. Remember, this is what **God** thinks of Christ. Shouldn't we think the same of Him? (**Prince, Savior**)
- 3.6. God loves **overruling sin**, to His own glory!
- 3.7. (32) **We are His witnesses** – to be “witnesses” we must **Believe it. Live it. Say it.**
- 3.8. **Believe it** – You must have a 1<sup>st</sup> hand experience of His saving power. And a sense of certainty about your salvation.
- 3.8.1. “The **Blood** makes me safe; the **Word** makes me sure.”
- 3.9. **Live it** – Our words must be backed by our ways.
- 3.9.1. **Illustration:** One morning centuries ago, the famous St. Francis of Assisi said to a brother monk, “**Let us go down into the town & preach.**” The 2 of them walked slowly along the road, & eventually reached the town. Francis, however, did not stop anywhere for a preaching appointment, but gradually guided the way back from town towards the monastery again. Presently his companion asked if he had forgotten the preaching. Francis replied, “My brother, it is no use **walking to preach unless we preach as we walk.**”
- 3.10. **Say it** – don't be limited by “living it”. Speak up when the chances arise. May there be an overflow of heart which unlooses the tongue in eager, earnest, discreet speech. Pray like the Psalmist, “**O Lord, open my lips, & my mouth will declare forth your praise**” (Ps.51:15)
- 3.10.1. Message Bible “**Unbutton my lips, dear God; I'll let loose with your praise**”

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<sup>1</sup> Griffith Thomas; pg.115.

## 4. A LAWYERS ADVICE! (33-42)

- 4.1. (33) Some men even called for the death penalty.
- 4.2. (34) **Gamaliel**, the voice of moderation explains: If it is just a **human work**, it would come to nothing anyway; If it was a **God work**, there would be no stopping it!
  - 4.2.1. **Gamaliel** – was Paul's teacher(Acts 22:3); He was the grandson of the great Rabbi Hillel; He died about 52ad.
- 4.3. He offers examples of 2 unsuccessful spiritual revolts in past days:
  - 4.3.1. [1] **Theudas** (35–36): Theudas pretended to be great, and 400 people followed him. After he was killed, his followers scattered.
  - 4.3.2. [2] **Judas of Galilee** (37): Remember in Lk.2 when the **census** was taken, you had to **register** in your birth city, & Joseph & Mary went to **Bethlehem**? Well, this is when this Judas of Galilee led a revolt against this registration & taxation. He was killed, and his followers also scattered (yet developed into the **Zealot party** which became a major provocation leading to the destruction of Jerusalem).
- 4.4. He speaks of compromise:
  - 4.4.1. **Time will tell!** - Does it? Many religions have been around for centuries. That doesn't mean they are of God!
    - 4.4.1.1. Eternity is at stake...can you wait to see?
  - 4.4.2. **Indifference!** - Is there really such thing as **neutrality** when it comes to Jesus?
  - 4.4.3. **Cowardice!** – Gamaliel should have felt bound to **accept**, not merely **ignore**.
- 4.5. (41-42) The apostles rejoice that God has counted them worthy to suffer for Jesus, and they continue their witness for him!
  - 4.5.1. **Q:** Do you know something of the same constraint – to speak to others about Christ?
  - 4.5.2. **Q:** Can you be content to **live unknown** for a little while, and to walk your weary way through the fields of **poverty**, or up the hills of **affliction**? For we are heirs with Him!
  - 4.5.3. The apostles were **men of courage** (they went straight back & preached in the Temple)
  - 4.5.4. The apostles were **men of principle** (obed to God must come 1<sup>st</sup>. They never asked, "Is this course of action **safe**?" They asked, "Is this what God wants **me to do**?")
  - 4.5.5. The apostles were **men of purpose** (They understood their main purpose was to be a witness w/their **lips** & their **lives**)
- 4.6. **What an unpopular cause, this cause of Christ!** It costs you everything. You might find yourself jailed. Experience loss of all your goods. Maybe even die! They knew at any time they could just deny their faith, but they steadfastly refused to!

- 4.6.1. **Adoniram Judson**, the renowned missionary to Burma, endured untold hardships trying to reach the lost for Christ. For 7 heartbreaking years he suffered hunger and privation. During this time he was thrown into Ava Prison, and for 17 months was subjected to almost incredible mistreatment. As a result, for the rest of his life he carried the ugly marks made by the chains and iron shackles which had cruelly bound him. Undaunted, upon his release he asked for permission to enter another province where he might resume preaching the Gospel. The godless ruler indignantly denied his request, saying "My people are not fools enough to listen to anything a missionary might **SAY**, but I fear they might be impressed by your **SCARS** and turn to your religion!"
- 4.6.2. Another who understood, like the apostles, "those who share in **cross-bearing** will share in **crown-wearing!**"