

This Little Light of Mine

Acts 13:44-52

Is your light in the window?

My Dad... His **gospel light** was always in the window of his life, brightly shining for everyone to see. Those thoughts of Dad are a blessing to me. But, at the same time, those thoughts are convicting. Too often **my gospel light** _____ out there, in the window; it's under a bushel. Too often, I fear, my *Christian witness* is undercover, which makes me, at times, an *Undercover Christian Witness*. Can you relate to that?

If so, it's *okay ... as long as* we're willing to let the conviction by the Holy Spirit to position us under His transforming power. If we're not willing, then we all know that hiding **our gospel light** after today *is not okay*.

Over the last couple weeks, as we've worked our way through **Paul's and Barnabas' first missionary journey** in **Acts 13**, we can't help but recognize how **out-there** the gospel is in the lives of the apostles. They're in uncharted territory. They're going where no Christian has gone before. They're strangers in foreign lands. They're aliens in hostile territory. But look at how courageous for Jesus they are. How boldly they share **their gospel light**. No, we are not the apostles or specially gifted evangelists. But that is not the question. The question is, "Is _____ **light** in the window or under a basket?"

Yes, it will cost us. But if **Jesus** is more important than yourself, if **the gospel light** is more valuable than what people think of you, then you can count on at least four reactions.

Count on the following reactions to you and _____ gospel message:

1. The reaction of the _____ (44-46).

"You judge yourselves **unworthy...**" Of course, they would never say that. They would say, "We have judged ourselves *worthy* of eternal life. Our faith in the Law has saved us!" Many in our day would say, "Who

needs God? Our faith, not in God, but in ourselves will save us! My problem is, *I don't believe enough in myself.*"

Remember what Casey said last week about the dangerous messages we listen to that are *on* _____—same message over and over and over again. But by declaring themselves *worthy*, they're judging themselves *unworthy*. People like that hate the light, and usually they come back at us and **our message** with strength for all kinds of dark reasons. These Jewish elites came back at the apostles with all the power of their high positions because they were jealous.

What do you and I _____ from the unworthy? "Well, I didn't expect that!" Why not?! That's what Paul and Barnabas expected. And if we are living in reality, that's what we should expect: Strong negative reactions and opposition **to us** and to **our gospel light**.

We ought to never shut up when opposed with strength. We ought to do what the apostles did. Turn to those who have tried hard to believe in themselves but with awful results. And now, just maybe, they're ready to believe in **the Light of the world**.

2. The reaction of the _____ (47-49).

Important note: The worthy are not worthy because they're clean. They're worthy because they're very much not clean and they know it.

Verse 48: "...as many as were **appointed** to eternal life believed." All good translations translate the Greek word *tasso* into the English word "appointed," or "ordained," or "chosen," because that is what it means. "All who were *chosen* for eternal life became believers" (NLT).

Verse 48 gives us *the divine side* of salvation: God _____. And then it gives us *the human side*: We share the gospel, and the appointed _____ the gospel. Two sides of the same coin. We are so messed up by sin, that if God doesn't *appoint* us, we don't get saved. **But don't dismiss our responsibility:** The saved *speak* the gospel, and the not-yet-save *believe* the gospel in order to be saved. If God doesn't choose, *and* we don't preach, *and* they don't believe, no one gets saved.

The worthy are worthy because they understand how unworthy they are without Jesus Christ, and they "rejoice and glorify the word of **the**

Lord,” that is to say, the gospel of Jesus Christ. Look and long for that one person in your life who, in time, is found by God to be worthy to hear and receive **your gospel message**. *Turn away* only to *turn to*.

3. The reaction of the _____ (50-51).

Verse 50: Some respond with strong, angry insulting, even blasphemous words. But then some go beyond insults to physical violence. The Jewish leaders use their dark power to incite other dark powers to forcefully drive the apostles out of town!

What a colossal failure! Or was it? **Verse 51:** That’s a Jesus-endorsed sign of rejection (Matthew 10:14). How can they be defeated if they successfully shared **the gospel light** so effectively that it riles up satanic _____? Isn’t this what they expected?

What is their reaction? They symbolically knock the dust off their shoes, and instead of running away to hide, they go to the next town! They *can’t be* stopped! They _____ *be* driven out. They *can be* hurt. They *can even be* killed. But in that case, someone else will take up the banner and will spread **the gospel light** to the worthy.

4. The reaction of the _____ (52).

Which is it, the driven-out apostles or the new believers in Antioch Pisidia? _____! This is the reaction we long for, the reaction we love and live for: both the joy and rejoicing of **the gospel light-bearers** when unbelievers become believers, and the joy and rejoicing of the unbelievers who suddenly become believers in Jesus.

But, “How are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they’re sent? How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news.” Who wrote that?

This little light of mine!

No, we’re not apostles. But that’s okay, because God didn’t give us that gift. But *He did call us to be lights*, even if our **lights** are **little lights**. Even **little lights** dispels darkness. “But Chris, I’m afraid I’ll say the

wrong thing.” Let’s decide to _____ saying that. Let’s decide to learn *how* to let **our light shine** in this present darkness.

Here’s a **gospel question** that will let **your light shine** in the face of your unbelieving coworker, family member, friend, classmate. Then write out your own question in the allotted space. **Question:** “Do you go to church?” **Follow up question:** “Why don’t you go to church?”

Now, think of that one person with whom you know you need to share **your little light**. What is the one question you need to ask to determine if they are worthy or not? Write it down. **Your gospel question:**

Then anticipate a negative or positive reaction, and write down a **follow up question**, just in case the reaction is favorable. Who knows, maybe your light will lead one lost soul to **the Ultimate Light, Jesus**.