

Carry the Light

Mt. 5:16, Psa. 105:17



Mt. 5:16 Let **your light so shine before men**, that they may see your good works, and **glorify your Father** which is in heaven.

Psa. 105:17 He sent a man before them, *even* Joseph, *who* was sold for a servant:

18 Whose feet they hurt with fetters: he was laid in iron:

19 Until the time that his word came: the word of the LORD tried him.

20 The king sent and loosed him; *even* the ruler of the people, and let him go free.

21 He made him lord of his house, and ruler of all his substance:

22 To bind his princes at his pleasure; and teach his senators wisdom.



Acts 7:9 And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: **but God was with him,**
10 And delivered him out of all his afflictions, and gave him favour and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.

Our new theme for 2017 is “Carry the Light.”

- THE PURPOSE OF THE LIGHT – “Then...”
 - The Exposure of Sin
 - The Expression of Salvation
- THE PERSON WHO IS THE LIGHT



This morning we will begin looking at Joseph, and how he “carried the light” into Egypt.

Carrying the Light from the Pit to the Palace

I. THE INDIVIDUAL PLAN FORETOLD

A. The Inclusive Picture – Gen. 15:13-14, Acts 7:6

Gen. 15:13 And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land *that is* not theirs, and shall serve them; and **they shall afflict them four hundred years;**

14 And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: **and afterward shall they come out with great substance.**



Acts 7:6 And God spake on this wise, **That his seed should sojourn in a strange land; and that they should bring them into bondage, and entreat *them* evil four hundred years.**

- Almost 200 years before Joseph was born, Abraham received the message about the Israelites being in a strange land for 400 years.
- After Joseph, the 400 years would pass before Moses would arrive.
- When Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, they came out with great treasure.



Gen. 15:14 And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: **and afterward shall they come out with great substance.**

Ex. 12:35 And the children of Israel did according to the word of Moses; and they borrowed of the Egyptians **jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment:**

36 And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them *such things as they required.* And **they spoiled the Egyptians.**

- God had a plan for one individual to let his light shine in Egypt to prepare the way for Israel's 400 years of sojourning.
- The dreams of Joseph were God's revelation of the future.
- God was preparing one person to fulfill His promise to Abraham.



B. The Individual Purpose

Psa. 105:17 **He sent a man before them, even Joseph**, who was sold for a servant:

- Joseph was God's choice before Jacob, his father, was ever born.
- Later, God sought for a man "to stand in the gap" in Israel and found none.

Ezek. 22:30 And **I sought for a man** among them, that should make up the hedge, and **stand in the gap** before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: **but I found none.**

- Was there someone there who failed God's plan?
- What about God's plan for our individual lives?



Isa. 43:7 *Even* every one that is called by my name: for **I have created him for my glory**, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.

Jer. 1:5 **Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee**; and before thou camest forth out of the womb **I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee** a prophet unto the nations.

Psa. 139:14 I will praise thee; **for I am fearfully and wonderfully made**: marvellous *are* thy works; and *that* my soul knoweth right well.



C. The Inspirational Performance

Acts 7:9 And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: **but God was with him,**

10 And **delivered him** out of all his afflictions, and **gave him favour and wisdom** in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and **he made him governor** over Egypt and all his house.

- Joseph, “carrying the light,” was 17 years old, a slave in a foreign land, and he lived out his convictions.



Gen 39:8 But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what *is* with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand;
9 *There is* none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou *art* his wife: **how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?**

- In the midst of adversity, Joseph was carrying his light everywhere he was!
- God blessed Joseph for his faithfulness.



Gen. 39:21 **But the LORD was with Joseph**, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

23 The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing *that was* under his hand; **because the LORD was with him**, and *that* which he did, **the LORD made it to prosper.**

- God expects His children today to be as faithful in “carrying the light” as Joseph was.

Phil. 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that **he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it** until the day of Jesus Christ:



Phil. 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

13 For **it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do** of *his* good pleasure.

1 Kings 8:57 **The LORD our God be with us**, as he was with our fathers: let him not leave us, nor forsake us:

58 **That he may incline our hearts unto him, to walk** in all his ways, and **to keep** his commandments, and his statutes, and his judgments, which he commanded our fathers.



Psa. 37:4 **Delight thyself also in the LORD**; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

5 **Commit thy way unto the LORD**; trust also in him; and **he shall bring it to pass.**

Deut. 10:12 And now, Israel, **what doth the LORD thy God require of thee**, but **to fear** the LORD thy God, **to walk** in all his ways, and **to love** him, and **to serve** the LORD thy God **with all thy heart and with all thy soul**,

Micah 6:8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what *is* good; and **what doth the LORD require of thee**, but **to do justly**, and **to love mercy**, and **to walk humbly** with thy God?






Conclusion


“It’s a Wonderful Life”

George Bailey (Jimmy Stewart) is an extraordinarily good man, but at this dark moment, he is facing ruin, scandal and jail, none of it deserved. Talking to himself and staring down at his drink, he whispers to himself, “Dear Father in Heaven, I’m not a praying man. But if you’re up there and you can hear me, show me the way. I’m at the end of my rope. Show me the way, God.”



During the dark fantasy that ensues, where **George is allowed to see what the world would have been like had he never been born**, Clarence tells him, **“Strange, isn’t it? Each man’s life touches so many other lives, and when he isn’t around, he leaves an awful hole, doesn’t he?”**


<http://info.character.org/blog/bid/191990/The-Character-of-George-Bailey>



2 Pet. 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

3 According **as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness**, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4 Whereby are **given unto us exceeding great and precious promises**: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.



5 And **beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith** virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

8 For **if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful** in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 But **he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off**, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.