



A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- **Luke 22:53**

**When I was daily with you
in the temple,**

- **you stretched forth
no hands against me:**
- **but this is your hour,**
- **and the power of darkness.**

- Evil is having its moment right now.
- The forces of evil are having their way for a time.
- This is an important observation that Jesus makes.

- Evil has its day
and Jesus
accepts this truth.
- But Evil will **lose!**
 - It is evil
that lurks
in the darkness.

- Luke 22:53

“**This is**
your hour,
and the
power of darkness.”

- The serpent himself has now come in Judas as he comes into all our lives.

- He comes in the “darkness of the midnight.”

- Midnight Lyrics-Coldplay
 - **In the darkness**
 - **Before the dawn**
 - **In the swelling**
 - **Of this storm**
 - **And hope is gone**
 - **Leave a light on.**

- The world is obsessed with darkness.

- 1 John 5:19

”The whole world lieth in wickedness” .

- Or “darkness”

- You have to take a long drive somewhere and you set out well before dawn to make a good start.
 - It is winter, and the snow is coming down heavily.

- The headlights catch the tumbling flakes a little way ahead of you, but otherwise, all around you, there is nothing to see or be seen.

- The darkness
is so complete,

- a darkness
so dense

you wonder if..

You will survive it?

- It is hard to believe
that it will ever
be day again.

- There is no sky
for the sun to rise in
- There is nothing to
get your bearings by,
- Nobody anywhere
to point you on your way
- Or reassure you
by the sound of
a human voice.

- As you travel slowly into the night,
- it's as if night travels slowly into you.
 - There is a darkness within,
 - Darkness piling up in you like snow on a winter's day..

- Daybreak
is what
you're hoping for.
- Light
to see by
- Light to
give you hope.
- Hope to see what awaits
at the end of the road.

- Or maybe it is night,
and you are home alone.
- The doctor has
ordered certain tests,
- And you are in the dark
as to how it will turn out.

- So you lie there
in the dark
straining to hear time's tale
ahead of time.
- Till past time,
present time,
future time
all start to whisper at once.
- We have
all been there.

- **Morning will come at last,**
and with it the word
that you wait for
will be spoken at last,
- Words that bring you **hope.**
 - Words that gives you
your life back.
 - For day has come
and with it light.
 - “**Joy will come**
in the morning”
(Psalm 30:5)

- Waiting for
the words of life
to be spoken.
- Because
in the darkness
we are all a little lost.

- There is **doubt** hard on the heels of belief,

- **Fear** hard on the heels of every hope,

- **Lives in ruin**

because the world has ruined them and we have ruined them.

- But still **faith waits** for the light.

- Faith waits
for the opening of a door,

- Faith waits for
the sound of footsteps
in the hall,

- Faith waits for
a loved one's voice.

- **We are like Nathaniel**
sitting under the fig tree
(**John 1:43-51**)
 - Most likely
contemplating life.
- When suddenly **Philip**
appears out of nowhere.
 - **“Come and see,”**
- Philip says to Nathaniel,
to all of us.
“We have found him,”

- Nathaniel says.
Found whom?
Found what?
- “Come and see!”
says Philip
- “The one of whom
Moses in the law
and also the prophets wrote.”
 - The one whom
Jeremiah called
“The hope of Israel”
(Jeremiah 17:13)

- The giver of light and life,
”I am the light of the world”
- The beloved one for whom **all the world has been awaiting**
(Romans 8:22)
- And will always wait
whether it
knows it or not.

- It's not just Nathanael
- But all of us, whoever we are,
- Holding our breath.
- As all of history has held its breath
 - To hear who it is that Philip has found.

- Then Philip tells Nathaniel it is “Jesus.”
- A name like any other name.
 - “From Nazareth,” a place like any other place.
- Do you laugh? Do you cry?
 - The world does both.

- Then Nathaniel ask,
“Can anything good
come out of Nazareth?”

- Can anything good
come out of
darkness?

- Of

“Darkness”

this your hour!

(Luke 22:53)

Says our Jesus.

- In the vernacular

Give it your best shot.

- Can light come out of that which the world scorns?
 - Out of that “Darkness”
 - Springs comfort.
 - Comfort for the many characters in the Bible of whom we know very little.

- **Comfort** for the woman who would but **”touch the hem of His garment.”**
- **Comfort** for the woman who anointed Jesus **with a jar of perfume.**
- **Comfort for a thief** who hung on a cross beside Jesus.

- **We are told only that**
they will be remembered.
- However “**insignificant**”
their lives were to society,
- They have been captured
in the pages of history
as people worth remembering,
- People remembered by God
when the world
wished them forgotten.

- It is a kind reminder that our own fleeting lives are remembered by God long before others notice
- And long after they have stopped noticing.

- We know very little about the man named Simeon,
 - But we know he was in the temple when he realized that God had remembered him.
(Luke 2:25)

- With wrinkled hands he cradled the infant, and sang to God:

- Luke 2:29

"Now, Lord, you have kept your promise, and you may let your servant go in peace.

- 2:30 **With my own eyes I have seen your salvation,**

- 2:31 **which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples:**

- 2:32 **A light to reveal your will to the Gentiles and bring glory to your people Israel."**

- ◆ **Luke 2:34-35**

Simeon blessed them

and said to Mary, his mother,

- ◆ "This child is chosen by God for the destruction and the salvation of many in Israel.
- ◆ He will be a sign from God which many people will speak against and so reveal their secret thoughts.
- ◆ And sorrow, like a sharp sword,
 - ◆ will break your own heart."

- ♦ An old man of God tells Mary & Joseph that in this child's life is to be both light and darkness.

- For thousands of years,
since Adam's time,
he is the one for whom
we've been waiting.
- The light that the darkness
has been trying to extinguish.
 - He is the light that will
extinguishes all darkness.
- No wonder this the "hour,"
 - The opportunity to
extinguish that "light".

- Can any one life shed “light” on the mystery of life itself?
- Because that is what we wait for.

- That is what religion is about
- That is what churches are about,
 - That is what our hymns and preaching and prayers are all about,
 - Though there are times you would hardly know it.

- **Life:**
- That's what we **all hunger for,**
- **Wait for,**
- Keep coming back to church **to find it**
- **Or avoiding it**
like the plague
as the last places on earth
to find it.

- It's life as we've never really known
- Life that we have only dreamed about.
- Life with each other.
- Life for each other.

- Life with all the darkness gone.
- And Phillip tells Nathaniel he has found it.
- Can it be true?
- “Come and see!”

- **Do we really know**
who Jesus is,
 - Is He **our** Jesus?
- Have we **found** Him?
 - The thing is,
He was never lost.

- He is not ours.

If anything,

we are his.

- Who is this Jesus?

- “Come and see!”

- He is the Mystery child of the ages.
- Philip tells Nathaniel, “Come and see”.
- And there is no other way for any of us.
- So, what do you see?

- It was just a little way for Nathaniel to travel.
- Just around the bend
And up the hill.
 - But in a sense
Nathaniel
had been traveling there
his whole life.

- In a sense
you and I have too:

- To see at last
and to be seen,

- To know and
to be known,

- To find and
to be found.

- If we could somehow meet one of the great ones of history, which one would we choose?
- Name your hero.

- If you and I were
to meet them
they would have nothing
to give us
but their greatness,
- Nothing to ask of us
but our admiration.

- In the saints and heroes of the past we would find them cut from the same cloth as we are after all.

- Someone often lost,
 - full of doubt,
 - yet full of hope.
 - Waiting for the
“Darkness”
to lift.
- Waiting as you and I
do for the “Light”
to deliver us.

- Philip is right,
it is not just somebody
greater than we
whom we wish to meet,
- It is not someone
out of the past
that comes to meet us.
- For there are many great
”heroes of faith”
whom we wish to meet.

- It is that special someone who has come out of the “**Darkness**” .
 - Who can **deliver us.**
 - That is the special someone **we all long to meet.**

- He is the one whom Moses and the prophets foretold,

Philip says.

- He is the Word made flesh.

- He is the word of all words that speaks out to life's deepest mystery.

- Around the bend and up the hill a piece.
- We find the light that shines out of "Darkness".
- The one for whom we await is the one for whom we have prayed.
- We are Nathaniel.
- Come and see, Philip tells us.

- So we come as Nathaniel came, to see for ourselves if it is true what Philip says,
- And what for all our lives we sometimes believed and sometimes failed to believe.

- Many of our best dreams have turned out to be only dreams.
- The world has taught us to be prepared always for the worst.
- But we come nevertheless — come in faith.

- The “**Darkness**” has not yet won.
- Jesus states that evil **is having its moment** right now.
- Evil has its day **and Jesus accepts this truth.**
- The question is, “**Will evil win**”?

- **What Nathaniel saw**
when he looked
into that face
we do not know.
- What mattered was
what Jesus saw.

- He saw Nathaniel with all his secrets laid bare.
 - We will know him when we see him, and, more crucial still, he will know us.
- “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile.”
 - He that sat in “Darkness” has seen a great light.

- “Rabbi, you are the Son of God!
You are the King of Israel!”

- I picture you and me
standing there too,
not guileless by a long shot,
but full of all that the world
has filled us with...

- **Disillusion** and **doubt**,
- **Love** and **fear**,
- **Deceit** and **hope**,
- And everything else
that makes us,us.
- Everything that
“**Darkness**”
throws at us.

- We who spend most of our lives believing that we wait only for morning to break,
- Waiting for some light to shine out of the world's "Darkness".
- While we wait and listen we hear a voice off in the distance saying, "I am the light of the world!"

- **“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;**
- **Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,**
 - **On them has the light shined.”**

- **Deep is the darkness**
of our time.
- And most of what light
comes our way
is **random** and **elusive**.
- Not only elusive
but deceptive.

- But we like the people of Israel have come to a parting of the sea.

- For us it is a sea of “Darkness.”

- A parting from the bondage of “Darkness” to the dawning of a new day.

- Philip tells Nathaniel, Come and see.”

- With great hope
we seek the “Light”.
- And we are
surprised to discover
that the “Light”
has been seeking us.

- Jesus calls Nathaniel by his name and he is astonished.
- But, more astonishing still is the name of the one who calls us...
 - Wonderful Counselor,
 - Mighty God.
 - It is Everlasting Father,
 - Prince of Peace.

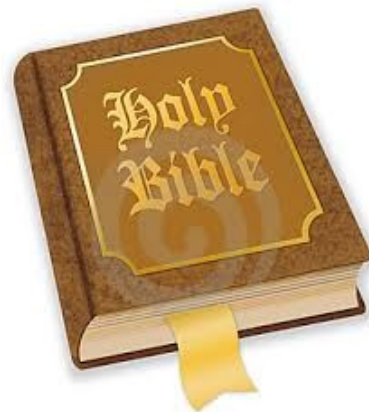
- Come
and
see

(John 1:46)

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



- 04-14-2019 Tryon, NC