

December 7, 2023

Jesus - Our Light in the Darkness

[Mark 13:24-30](#)

In those days, after the suffering of that time, the sun will become dark, and the moon won't give its light. The stars will fall from the sky, and the planets and other heavenly bodies will be shaken. Then they will see the Human One coming in the clouds with great power and splendor. Mark 13:24-25, CEB

Driving home from church on a dark, cloudy evening, my usual exit was closed for repair. The detour took me down a little-used rural route with few homes, no streetlights or pavement reflectors. I was immensely grateful for my bright headlights as I navigated a winding road down a steep path to reach the brightly illumined city streets.

I was reminded of that frightening drive as I read today's passage. In it, Jesus repeats the prophetic warnings of Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Joel who prepared their audiences for the absence of their guiding lights before sin-related calamity came upon them. Jesus' warning is two-fold: he's preparing the Twelve for the coming destruction of Jerusalem and all believers for the dark, troubled times we will experience before he comes again.

Our life journey takes us through dark places of personal tragedy, disaster, loss, and societal evil. Our safety in reaching our heavenly destination depends on the light we choose to illuminate our journey. If we navigate by the light of our own, others', or the world's wisdom, we'll be left in darkness when those uncertain lights fail. Only the true Light that came into the world, that shines on every person can never be extinguished (John 1:5,9).

Jesus, the Light of the world, promised that whoever follows him "won't walk in darkness but will have the light of life" (John 8:12), and his light in us makes us the light of the world for others (Matthew 5:14). When we shine His light by sharing the Good News of his love, we illuminate the way for others to know the One who leads us out of darkness and into the light of his eternal presence.

Prayer: *Father, thank you for sending Jesus our Light who shines into our dark times and leads us to safety in his presence. Urge us by your Spirit to walk in the Light as He is in the light so that together we will be a beacon of hope to those who are stumbling in the dark. Because of Jesus, Amen.*

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