

Greetings to all the Saints at Manatee Life,

**SCRIPTURE:**

John 8:12 (MSG) – Larger reading: John 8:12-20

*“Jesus once again addressed them: “I am the world’s Light. No one who follows me stumbles around in the darkness. I ‘provide plenty of light to live in.”*”

**STORY:**

Making decisions in the dark can lead to some regrettable consequences. Back in the days before electricity, a tightfisted old farmer was taking his hired man to task for carrying a lighted lantern when he went to call on his best girl. "Why," he exclaimed, "when I went a-courtin' I never carried one of them things. I always went in the dark." "Yes," the hired man said wryly, "and look what you got!"

**REFLECTION:**

Recently I came across this statement: “Early lighthouse-keepers were priests who tended to the duty of providing firewood to fuel the lighthouse beacon. As a result, many churches near shorelines were also used as lighthouses. Not by coincidence, the lighthouse is often referred to as a symbol of Christ, the light of the world. The rays of light symbolize God’s guiding path, just as the lighthouse serves to guide ships safely to the shore.”

The challenge is to consider how we are “tending the light” or are we expecting Jesus to do it all by himself? The celebration of Christmas is to embrace the reality that the light of Christ has come into a very dark world and thus, as his followers, we are to make sure that light shines in us.

And so, while we are on the Faith Journey we should evaluate our daily work and make sure that we shine with his light. E. Stanley Jones was fond of asking, “Do you have Christ in your heart?” If the answer was yes, then he would follow it up with, “Well, how about informing your face of that reality.”

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

**QUOTE:**

*“Some people change their ways when they see the light, others only when they feel the heat.” - Source unknown*

**PRAYER:**

Help us not to hide the light of Christ in the middle of our busy and over-scheduled life. May your agenda God become our agenda. May the light of our Savior and Christ be evident to all those who see our face.

And the faith journey continues, Pastor Jim  
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***Prepare now to experience The Joy of Christmas! – the theme for the  
Christmas Eve Service***

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