

Day 3 - Come Into the Light

Scripture Focus: John 3:19-21 | Ephesians 5:8-14 | 1 John 1:5-10 | Psalm 32:3-5

Devotional

There is a difference between **God exposing us** and **God humiliating us**.

We often experience exposure as something threatening. If something is hidden, there is usually a reason we put it there. Maybe we are ashamed of it. Maybe we have justified it for so long that we no longer recognize it clearly. Maybe acknowledging it would require us to change. Sometimes we have simply buried something so deeply that we don't realize we are still carrying it.

So we cover.

Psalm 32 describes what happened when David remained silent. What was hidden did not disappear simply because it wasn't spoken. His silence became heavy.

The Hebrew word study on **charesh - silence** gives us a useful picture: something being *plowed over*. The surface may look different, but what was underneath hasn't ceased to exist.

We can do that with our hearts.

We can cover something with busyness.

We can cover it with explanations.

We can cover it with good intentions.

We can cover it with religious activity.

We can even cover it with the version of ourselves we desperately want to believe is true.

But God already knows what is underneath.

We aren't telling God something He doesn't know. We are choosing to stop hiding what He already sees.

John 3 tells us that light came into the world, yet people preferred darkness because they did not want their deeds exposed. There is something profoundly human in that. Darkness lets us avoid looking closely. Light makes things visible.

But the light of God isn't merely a spotlight searching for something to condemn.

It is also the light that allows us to see clearly.

First John tells us that God is light and then immediately acknowledges the reality of sin. It doesn't tell us to pretend we have none. In fact, it says the opposite. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves.

Instead, we are invited to confess.

And what meets confession?

Faithfulness. Justice. Forgiveness. Purification.

The purpose of bringing something into the light is not to leave us standing there exposed and ashamed. It is to remove what has been interfering with truth, freedom and intimacy with God.

There is another idea in today's word studies that deserves attention: **chashak - darkness**, presented through the imagery of dawn or twilight.

Dawn is fascinating because there isn't always an obvious second when darkness ends and daylight begins.

Sometimes spiritual awareness happens like that too.

We may sincerely believe we're seeing clearly while something remains obscured. We can have good intentions and still be wrong. We can believe our motives are pure and discover there is something underneath them. We can even be doing something that looks good while God is inviting us to examine *why* we're doing it.

That is why this fast began with:

“Search me, God, and know my heart.”

We're asking God to show us what we cannot - or perhaps do not want to - see ourselves.

And then Ephesians gives us another piece:

“Find out what pleases the Lord.”

The **perash** word study gives us the image of **laying something out, spreading it before us and examining it closely.**

What if we did that with our lives before God?

Not only our obvious sins.

Everything.

Our motives.

Our relationships.

Our habits.

Our desires.

Our gifts.

Our wounds.

Our ambitions.

Our fears.

Our time.

Our strengths.

Our excuses.

Even the things we are absolutely convinced we're right about.

Lay it all out.

And ask:

God, what here pleases You?

What have I covered that needs to come into the light?

What am I calling good simply because I want it to be good?

Where am I defending myself instead of allowing You to teach me?

Is there anything creating distance between Your heart and mine?

And then - this part matters - we don't have to manufacture an answer.

We asked God to search us.

So we can become quiet enough to let Him do the searching.

If something comes to the surface, we don't have to panic, defend, rationalize or bury it again.

We can simply bring it into the light.

Because confession isn't God discovering the truth about us.

It is us becoming willing to stand with God in the truth He already knows.

And there, in the light, we discover that God's heart was never waiting for an opportunity to shame us.

He was making room for reunion.

Prayer

Father,

I asked You to search my heart.

Today, I am asking for the courage not to hide from what You reveal.

Bring Your light into the places I have covered over - intentionally or unintentionally. Show me what I have buried beneath explanations, distractions, fear, pride, shame, good intentions, or simply the passage of time.

If there is something in me that I cannot see clearly, illuminate it.

If I have convinced myself that something is right simply because I wanted it to be right, give me discernment.

If I have missed the mark, help me acknowledge it without defending myself.

If I have sinned, give me the humility to confess it.

If shame tries to make me hide from You, remind me that You already know me completely and still invite me closer.

I don't want to perform goodness for You.

I want to know Your heart.

So I lay my life before You.

My motives.

My relationships.

My choices.

My habits.

My desires.

My wounds.

My gifts.

My plans.

My fears.

My strengths and weaknesses.

Lay it all out.

Show me what pleases You.

Show me what doesn't.

Show me what needs to remain, what needs to grow, what needs to heal, and what needs to be released.

And when You reveal something difficult, help me remember that Your light is not my enemy.

Your light allows me to see.

Your truth allows me to confess.

Your forgiveness allows me to stop hiding.

And Your love allows me to come home.

Remove anything that has created unnecessary distance between Your heart and mine.

I don't want silence where You are inviting honesty.

I don't want darkness where You are offering light.

I don't want hiding where You are offering intimacy.

Search me.

Illuminate me.

Teach me.

Forgive me.

And bring my heart closer to Yours.

Make room in me for Your heart.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.