



Series: A Journey Through Matthew #15

Title: Walking in the Sunlight

Text: Matthew 13:43 "Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear."

Introduction: "To walk in the sunlight is to live in the warmth of God's truth and love, casting aside the shadows of fear and doubt."

I. The Context of Matthew 13:43- Jesus is addressing the fate of those who belong to God. He calls them "righteous"

A. The Radiance of the Righteous- The sun is a source of light, warmth, and life, and to shine like the sun suggests reflecting God's glory, purity, and truth.

B. Walking in the Sunlight-What Does it Mean to Walk in the Light?

Walking in the sunlight symbolizes living a life illuminated by God's presence and guided by His principles. It involves embracing the following aspects:

- 1. Living in Truth and Integrity**
- 2. Reflecting God's Love and Grace-**
- 3. Pursuing Holiness and Righteousness**

Holiness is a key aspect of walking in the sunlight. The call to be holy is a call to be set apart for God's purposes. *1 Peter 1:15-16 urges believers, "But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy'* This pursuit of holiness involves rejecting sinful behaviors and attitudes, and instead cultivating virtues that reflect God's character.

How Do We Flesh That Out? The Keys to Walking in Holiness and Purity:

- * Union with Christ: Romans 6:4 states, "We too may live a new life" In relationship!**
- * The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit: The Spirit indwells every believer, guiding, convicting, and enabling them to live according to God's will. (Gal.5:16) advises, "So I say, walk by the Spirit,**
- * Renewing the Mind: Renewing the mind is essential for walking in holiness and purity. This involves transforming our thinking to align with God's truth as revealed in Scripture. (Romans 12:2) instructs, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.**

*** Obedience to God's Word: Holiness and purity require a commitment to obeying God's Word. (Psalm 119:9) asks, "How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word" (NIV).**

*** Confession and Repentance: (1 John 1:9) promises, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness"**

4. Spreading the Light of the Gospel- Walking in the sunlight also means being a light to others. Jesus tells His followers, **"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden"** (Matthew 5:14, NIV). Believers are called to share the good news of Jesus Christ, illuminating the path for others to find salvation and hope. This evangelistic mission is a vital part of living in the light, as it brings the transformative power of the Gospel to those in darkness.

II. The Challenges and Rewards of Walking in the Sunlight

Living in the sunlight of God's kingdom is not without challenges. The world often opposes the values and principles of God's kingdom, leading to persecution, misunderstanding, and difficulty. **Jesus warned His disciples that they would face trials and opposition because of their faith (John 16:33).** However, He also promised His presence and peace amidst these challenges.

- 1. Temptations and Sin-**
- 2. Influence of the World-**
- 3. Spiritual Warfare-**
- 4. Persecution and Opposition**

III. The Rewards of Walking in the Sunlight: Four Rewards of Walking in the Light

- 1. Fellowship with God and Others**
- 2. Purification and Forgiveness of Sins-**
- 3. Clarity and Guidance-**
- 4. Peace and Joy-**

Isaiah 26:3 promises: "You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you"