

## How Clearly Can You See? Mark 1:35-38

This is a story about a small seacoast village in England that routinely would become covered by dense fog. The pride of that village was a lighthouse that had been built on the north end of town where the harbor was navigable and free from the huge rocks that dotted the rest of the coast. One night the villagers had gathered on the south end of town to celebrate a local holiday. Part of that celebration included the building of a large bonfire on the beach.##

That same night, a ship in the vicinity developed engine trouble. The ship's captain, after checking his maps and charts, decided to locate the beam from that village lighthouse and put it in at that harbor for repairs. As he scanned the horizon through the fog, he caught sight of a faint glimmer of light. Thinking it to be the beam from the lighthouse, he set his course on it to go ashore.##

As he came closer to land, he began to see the light more clearly and realized it was not the lighthouse but the bonfire. Quickly he changed course, later discovering that he had been only 100 yards away from one of the largest sunken boulders in that area and certain destruction of his ship. It made a difference how clearly he could see!##

How clearly can you see Jesus? What do you see?##

There was a news clip which appeared in the papers after the blackout in one city. It read: "During the power failure many people complained of having gotten stuck for hours on escalators."##

We can't go through our everyday life with Jesus or God switched off. We won't make it. There won't be any power for living. We'll be stuck on the escalator of life and won't have the energy to walk up or down. We need to spend time in prayer. Prayer is our connection to the source of power in life, God.##

Jesus knew that. And if Jesus, the Son of God, needed to refuel, to reconnect, to plug in and recharge, what makes us think that we can get along without it? You and I have a source of power and energy just waiting to be tapped. And all you have to do is plug in.##

Jesus discovered that only by turning to God when the crowds were pressing so hard against him could he ever hope to maintain a sharp focus on his true reason for being. We need to know when to walk away, when to shut the door, and when to be alone to regroup our thoughts and to re-think God's will and purpose for our lives. If we do not take this time, we could possibly crack under the load, go off in the wrong direction, say the wrong words, or do the wrong things. It is possible that the stress and strain could cause us to go in the opposite direction of our purpose. Suddenly we discover that life is counter-productive from our intentions. #

In the movie Bridge Over the River Kwai the British officer is so busy and so consumed by the bridge he builds that he forgets his responsibilities as an officer, the battle he is fighting, and the human lives for which he is responsible. The purpose of his life at that moment is to lead his men and not to defend his bridge. How easily we can develop a fortress mentality regarding our church and forget the human needs that exist on our doorsteps! #

May we keep our eyes on Jesus, seeking his will for our lives. Let us be mindful how we are to live our faith so that others might come to experience the source of our strength and hope in life. #

LET US PRAY THIS SONG #

O soul, are you weary and troubled?  
No light in the darkness you see?  
There's light for a look at the Savior,  
And life more abundant and free! #

- *Refrain:*  
Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
Look full in His wonderful face,  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,  
In the light of His glory and grace. #

*God bless,  
Pastor Barbara*