



Hiding in the dark

- For this short item I want to talk a little bit about-
 - LIGHT, DARKNESS and HIDING FROM GOD
- The Bible reveals to us that Men loved darkness rather than light.
 - What does that mean?
- Well- in the Bible Light and darkness are often used as symbols for knowledge and ignorance - respectively.
- Darkness is a useful thing if you want to hide.
- Our very first parents wanted to hide in Eden's garden
 - Straight after they did as they were tempted.
- But God didn't immediately punish them like He did the angels (although they were judged).
- I sometimes ask the question to young people
Q.What was the first Act of grace (free undeserved favour)? Other than Creation itself!

- The answer is that, after the Fall of Man, God came to them.
 - He didn't have to
 - He would have been well within His rights to condemn straight away.
 - But He holds off.

- He comes to them.

It's quite strange, how it's put

It says:-

"And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD"

- A Voice walking - Who is this?
 - Well, it's the Second Person of the Godhead- the Son- the WORD as it's put in John 1
 - The Word walking

- People don't change much,
 - They still hide themselves today in an attempt to be free from condemnation.

- The Lord calls to them and says

"Where art thou?"

- He asked them not because He didn't know (He knows everything)
- but to get them to question their state!
- God calls to all of us and says
 - "Where are you spiritually?"
 - It's a very searching question.
- How do people try to hide today?
 - The Philosopher's tried to restrict the way to know things down to just two ways,
 - then found these ways to be inadequate.
- Rationalism and Empiricism - two blinkers- they discount any other way of knowing.
 - Despite the fact that we can know things in other ways- like our conscience or having it revealed to us by God Himself.
- Nevertheless they tried these two 'tools'
 - But, without God to give a reason to trust the reliability of these things, they fail.

- What exactly are the two ways?

Well, you can try to find truth by thinking logically - with all its rules and laws- that should give some conclusions!

- But it can't unless you have some facts

It's like having a sum without numbers to put into it. You need some data.

- Ah, so you use the second way- you use the experience of your senses to measure, and observe things, do experiments, and get some facts to use as premises for your reasoning!
 - Great!
 - Ah..but the Philosopher David Hume found a problem - if we try to be autonomous from God, all facts from our senses are unreliable conventions.
 - Without God, how can we know they're reliable
 - How can we trust the laws of nature to do tomorrow what they did today, we can't even say that one thing causes another!
 - But he refused all other means of knowing and told people it was enough to accept convention.
 - But now, after that 'Modern' age (18th Century), No real scientist today will dare say they can **prove** what is **objectively** true with science alone - but only what is **provisionally** true
 - UNLESS you trust in the God of the Bible who has given us logical laws and promised to uphold all things- including natural laws.
He has given us our reason, and expects us to use it.
 - But, reject Him, and you'll have a real problem with knowing truth at all
 - Remember, Men like to hide-
 - So now they say there is no objective truth, and to claim to know it is wrong.
 - Can you spot the problem with that?
 - Let me put it another way to force the point
- They say "I KNOW that you can't know"
- Is that logical? Does that make sense?
 - No, It's self-refuting. It refutes it's own conclusion in its premise.

It's not so easy to hide in the dark.

Ignorance isn't a good defence -

"If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee." Psalm 139.11

- Darkness IS a useful thing if you want to hide.
 - So if you want to hide from God, then the darkness of ignorance is, supposedly, a useful thing
 - If you claim you can't know then everyone is in the dark!
- But God ISN'T in the dark - and neither are His children

- God graciously came to Humanity again, in goodwill - we remember that especially at Christmas.

- The Word became flesh

"But men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil."

- Hiding again

He was that Light, but The darkness comprehended it not

- Not because it's incomprehensible, but because of something in people - their stubborn will.
- A will that wants to stay in the dark.

- They reason with themselves - "If I can plead ignorance then I can be free!" (Wrong assumption)

- This is willful ignorance, and it's wrong logically and morally.

It's not a good defence.

"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God."

- You can't hide from God by saying "But I couldn't see!"

- He lights everyone - he gives you the lamp of conscience and a sense of God. -

"That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not."

- The world tries:

- to close its eyes (of reason),
- to block out the light (of conscience) with a blindfold,
- and to switch off the light (of our instinct for God) by saying you can't know.

- Because Modernism (during the 'Enlightenment'- [what an oxymoron!!]) willfully restricted their ways of knowing down to a blinkered scientific rationalism,

- then Postmodernism pulled that apart by saying "I **know** it's impossible to **know**".

Saying that "God is a fiction"-

- but how do you **know** that? -

- If you try not to believe anything - you'll fall for everything!
- Don't let the world rob you of your soul!

- Just because you put yourself in the dark, and refuse to see, it doesn't mean you're free, or that other people can't see, and especially that God can't see you.

- It also doesn't mean that there isn't a way to know (other than what you have decided is legitimate).
 - What if God Himself comes and tells us!
 - He has done.
- Don't be afraid of the light, be afraid of the darkness.
 - It won't hide you, it's not your friend.
 - God has a right to be angry at our rejection - but still He holds out His hand to us.
- There are those who can see in this dark world because God gives them faith to do so-
 - It's not impossible to know.
 - He can give you faith to see
 - He's the One with a Divine warrant
 - with Authority to do so.
 - Not only that, but He can change you, so you don't need to be afraid to see, or hide anymore from the light.

The Bible says:

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."