

Matthew's Gospel

Chapter 12c

INTRODUCTION

Luke 11:14 Now He was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled.

2 Peter 2:20 For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Yeshua the Messiah, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

Ephesians 5:8-11 ...for you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light⁹ (for the fruit of the light *consists* in all goodness and righteousness and truth),¹⁰ trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.¹¹ And do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;

John 3:19-21 And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil.²⁰ For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.²¹ But he who practices the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.

1 John 1:6-7 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;⁷ but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Yeshua His Son cleanses us from all sin.

LIGHT & DARKNESS ARE DYNAMIC

Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Psalms 11:2 For, behold, the wicked bend the bow, they make ready their arrow upon the string, to shoot from darkness at the upright in heart.

Romans 13:12 The night is almost gone, and the day is at hand. Let us therefore lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

Acts 26:18 ...to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.'

Numbers 33:55 But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then those of them whom you let remain shall be as pins in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall trouble you in the land where you dwell.

2 Corinthians 12:7 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.

DARKNESS = BONDAGE

Acts 8:23 For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the **bondage** of iniquity.

Romans 7:14 For we know that the Torah is spiritual; but I am of flesh, sold into **bondage** to sin

1 John 3:4 Everyone who practices sin also practices Torahlessness; and sin is Torahlessness.

Romans 6:17 But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and having been freed from sin, you became servants of righteousness. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as servants to impurity and to Torah-lessness, resulting in *further* Torah-lessness, so now present your members as servants to righteousness, resulting in sanctification. ²⁰ For when you were servants of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death. ²² But now having been freed from sin and become bondmen to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. ²³ For the rations of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Messiah Yeshua our Lord.

DARKNESS = BLINDNESS

1 John 2:9-11 The one who says he is in the light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. ¹⁰ The one who loves his brother abides in the light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. ¹¹ But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because **the darkness has blinded his eyes**.

Acts 13:9-11 But Saul, who was also *known as* Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, fixed his gaze upon him, ¹⁰ and said, "You who are full of all deceit and fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to make crooked the straight ways of the Lord? ¹¹ And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and **you will be blind** and not see the sun for a time." And immediately a mist and a **darkness** fell upon him, and he went about seeking those who would lead him by the hand.

Revelation 3:17-18 Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and **blind** and naked, ¹⁸ I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire, that you may become rich, and white garments, that you may clothe yourself, and *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes, that you may see.

Q: Why did the Laodiceans think they were in need of nothing? Why would people call evil good and good evil?

A: They are in darkness and walking by their feelings.

"Show me a person who lives according to his feelings and emotions, and I will show you a person who walks in darkness."

Isaiah 5:20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

LIGHT = JOY/HAPPINESS

Esther 8:16 For the Jews there was **light** and **gladness** and **joy** and honor.

Proverbs 29:18 Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained, But **happy** is he who keeps the Torah.

Isaiah 51:4 "... For Torah will go forth from Me, And I will set My justice for a **light** of the peoples."

Psalm 1:1-2 **Happy** is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! ² But his **delight** is in the Torah of Adonai, and in His Torah he meditates day and night.

***We are unhappy not because God has failed to make us happy,
but because we fail to see Him.***

We do not see things as they are; we see things as WE are.

DARKNESS = UNCLEANNES

Leviticus 5:2-3 Or if a person touches any unclean thing, whether a carcass of an unclean beast, or the carcass of unclean cattle, or a carcass of unclean swarming things, though it is hidden from him, and he is unclean, then he will be guilty. ³ 'Or if he touches human uncleanness, of whatever *sort* his uncleanness *may* be with which he becomes unclean, and it is hidden from him, and then he comes to know *it*, he will be guilty.

Q&A

Q: Who is the most "free" entity in the universe?

A: God. He does whatever He wants to do.

Q: Does God want us to imitate Him?

A: Yes! (Eph.5:1)

Q: How can we as mere human beings imitate God?

A: By keeping His Word in love... (Ps.119:44-45/James 1:25/Ex.20:2.../John 8:31-32) ...which is walking in the Spirit (2 Cor.3:17/Rom.8:15).

Q: Why does God want us to be free?

A: So that we will resemble Him.

Q: What will rob us of our freedom?

A: Sin (which is disobedience to God's Word). (Acts 8:23/Rom.7:14 + 1 John 3:4/Rom.6:17-23)

Ephesians 5:1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children;

Psalm 119:44-45 So I will keep Thy law continually, Forever and ever. ⁴⁵ And I will walk at liberty, For I seek Thy precepts.

James 1:25 But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does.

Exodus 20:2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery..."

John 8:31-32 Yeshua therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you abide in My word, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine; ³² and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

2 Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, *there* is liberty.

Romans 8:15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"

Acts 8:23 "For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity."

Romans 7:14 For we know that the Law is spiritual; but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin.

1 John 3:4 Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.

Romans 6:17 But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in *further* lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification. ²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death. ²² But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Messiah Yeshua our Lord.

THOUGHTS OF THE HEART

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Ephesians 4:27 and give no opportunity (τόπος) to the devil.

τόπος (1) to denote a specific and defined area *district, territory, land, region* (AC 12.17); (2) under Semitic influence, to denote the site of an event *place, location* (JN 10.40); (3) to denote an inhabited *place*, as a city, village, seaport, etc. (MT 14.35; AC 27.2); by metonymy *the people of a place* (MK 6.11); (4) to denote an inhabited *space*, as a room, building, temple, etc. *place* (MT 24.15; AC 4.31); (5) to refer to the *location* of a passage in a book (LU 4.17); (6) to denote a *position, office, task* (AC 1.25a); (7) figuratively, to refer to an **opportunity, occasion, chance** (AC 25.16)

Genesis 6:5 Then Adonai saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. (1st app. of "thought" in Torah)

Matthew 15:19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders."

MISC.

Genesis 1:3-4 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light

was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

Matthew 14:3 For when Herod had John arrested, he bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip.

Matthew 27:2 and they bound Him, and led Him away, and delivered Him up to Pilate the governor.

Matthew 17:21 *“But this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”*

Ephesians 4:17-32