



“Walk while you have the
light, lest darkness overtake
you...” – John 12:35

4th Sunday of Pentecost



Darkness that Challenges the Light that is in You

What are some of the darknesses that challenges the light within us?



1. Worldly Knowledge

- Knowledge is not bad, if used for the glory of God
- Knowledge mingled with pride is a source of darkness in our life.
- EX: Eve's desire for knowledge
- "The woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise..." (Gen. 3:6)
- "Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies." (1 Cor. 8:1)
- "He who increases knowledge will increase suffering." (Eccl. 1:18)

2. Distraction and Digital Overstimulation

- “But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.” (Luke 21:34)
- “I will set nothing wicked before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not cling to me.” (Psalm 101:3)
- “All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.” (1 Cor. 6:12)
- Restlessness in silence and times of prayer



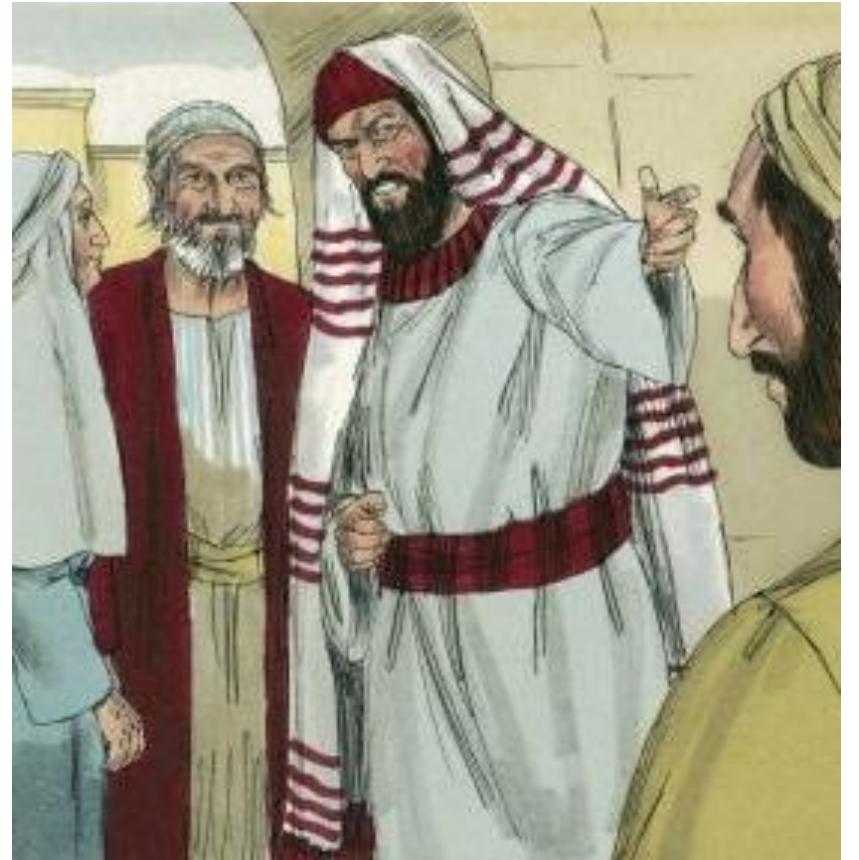


3. Affinity for darkness

- “And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.” (Jn. 3:19)
- The attraction or movement towards darkness will rob us of the light of the Holy Spirit within us.
- “For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.” (Jn. 3:20-21)
- Repentance exposes the darkness within us

4. Peer pressure and Bad Company

- “Beware of men...” (Matt. 10:17)
- Beware of their influence
- The pressure of maintaining social status
- EX: Pharisees
- “Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.” (Jn. 12:42-43)
- EX: Man Born Blind



5. Hatred and Unforgiveness

- “He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.” (1 Jn. 2:9-11)
- Hatred is incompatible with the kingdom of heaven

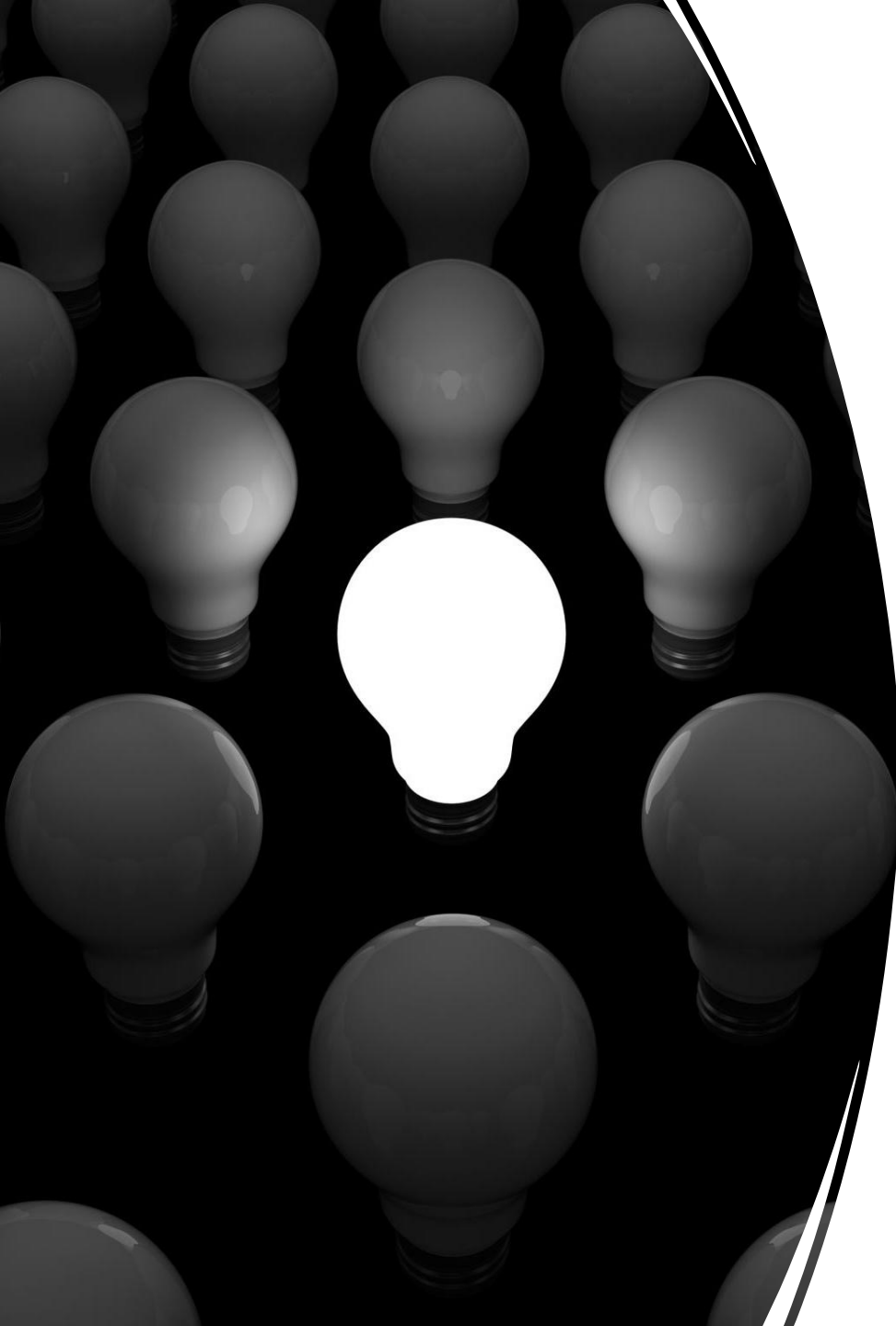
6. Indifference

- *“We must therefore not scorn the divine gifts, but rather set great store by what we have from God; the gift will be pleased to dwell in us when we show interest. If, by contrast, we prove indifferent and remiss about it, it will completely take its leave.”* (St. Cyril of Alexandria)
- **“Woe to those who are at ease in Zion...”** (Amos 6:1)
- Indifference is darkness...why?
 1. Neglect of Prayer and Sacraments
 2. Lack of Compassion
 3. Ignoring Sin
 4. Choosing the Path of Least Resistance



7. Ignorance of the Light

- “I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness... He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.” (Jn. 12:46,48)
- Our ignorance will judge us
- "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." (Hosea 4:6)



Summary

While there are many forms of darkness, we spoke of the following:

1. Worldly Knowledge
2. Distraction and Digital Overstimulation
3. Affinity for darkness
4. Peer pressure and Bad Company
5. Hatred and Unforgiveness
6. Indifference
7. Ignorance of the Light