



# BARNES

# an the Bay

May 30, 2022

---

## SCRIPTURAL MEDITATION: John 15:12-13

“This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.  
Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

## DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT: “Where the Light of Love Shines the Brightest”

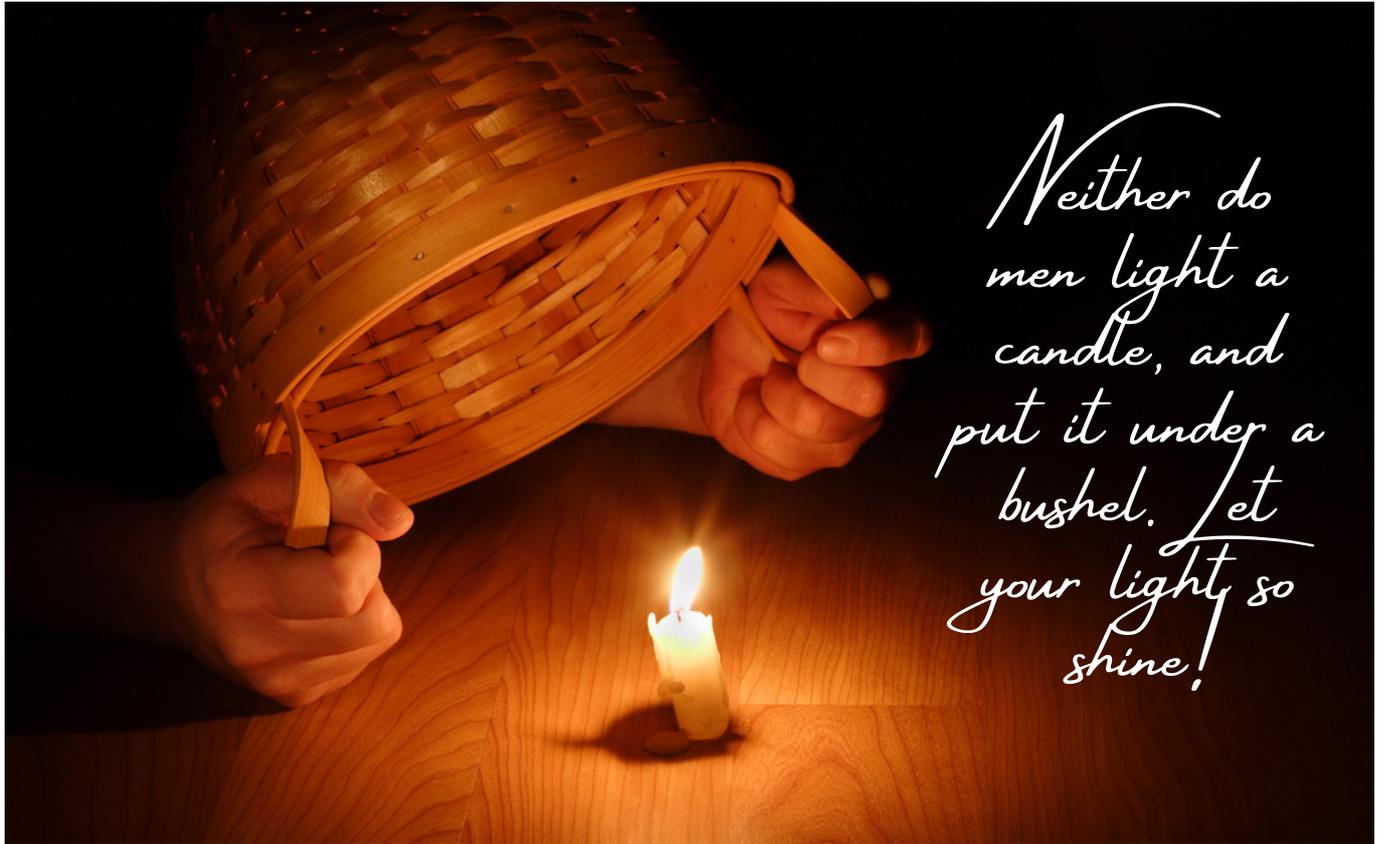
There is, of course, no more notable example of love than Jesus. It begins with the Father’s great love for humankind in providing His only Son for redemption. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). All of Christ’s life was lived within that model of love. But even within the encroaching darkness of Christ’s crucifixion, His love through it is undeniably unveiled in grander. God would not look on Christ as sin is placed on Him, and He prevented others from gawking at Him in that intense moment of shame. Yet in the darkness, God provided great light! Never has the light of love shown more brightly than in those darkest moments on the cross.

*Never has the light of  
love shown more brightly  
than in those darkest  
moments on the cross.*

In like manner, the world exists today in great spiritual, mental, psychological, and emotional darkness. However, everything changes when a little light breaks through. May we as believers reflect the light and love of Christ so that others might see Him shining as bright as the new-day sun. That light of love is not just a warm and fuzzy emotion. Instead, it is a commitment of emotion, will, and action to benefit someone else. Always putting others before self is genuinely living out such an expression of love. And Jesus said, “This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.” Such means sacrificing one’s best interests for the benefit of others, and it is a commendable expression of affection that follows Jesus’ heart and actions.

This love does not wait for monumental moments to reveal itself. It simply shines where it’s needed, and quite frankly, it’s essential everywhere! It comes by seeing where people are in life and infusing the light of love into their day. It most certainly involves sharing Christ with others so they might also come to the light. And it will probably be in the darkest of times for those around us that our love for them will shine the brightest. Indeed, we should not be keeping our light under a bushel. As our light shines and we reveal Christ and our love to those around us, such will glorify our Father in heaven. Light always shines the brightest and is needed most where the darkness is the greatest. May the Lord help us find those who could use a little light and love in their day. As the children’s song says, “This little light of mine, I’m going to let it shine!”

“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 5:14-16).



**THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE: "Show Love to Someone!"**

Seek out someone to whom you can show the love of Christ. It will be easy to do so to someone you know but try to find someone a little more distant from your circle. You might be surprised just how much that moment will make in someone else's life. Take to heart what the Lord says: "Then He also said to him who invited Him, 'When you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just.'" (Luke 14:12-14).

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

"Love is not only something you feel; it is something you do." -David Wilkerson

