

Discover the Dark Side in You

Thrive

John 12:1-12

John 12:1

Six days before the Passover celebration began, Jesus arrived in Bethany, the home of Lazarus—the man he had raised from the dead.

John 12:2

A dinner was prepared in Jesus' honor. Martha served, and Lazarus was among those who ate with him.

John 12:3

Then Mary took a twelve-ounce jar of expensive perfume made from essence of nard, and she anointed Jesus' feet with it, wiping his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance.

John 12:4

But Judas Iscariot, the disciple who would soon betray him, said,

John 12:5

“That perfume was worth a year’s wages. It should have been sold and the money given to the poor.”

John 12:6

Not that he cared for the poor—
he was a thief, and since he was
in charge of the disciples' money,
he often stole some for himself.

John 12:7

Jesus replied, “Leave her alone.
She did this in preparation
for my burial.

John 12:8

You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.”

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Inner Darkness

The accumulation of deep-seeded and unrecognized insecurities, pain, suffering, guilt, impure motives, feelings of inferiority, chronic negativity, evil desires, sinful influences, etc.

Principle #1

Every one of us, even as
believers and followers of Christ,
has an inner darkness.

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Matthew 26:6-13

Matthew 26:7

While he was eating, a woman came in with a beautiful alabaster jar of expensive perfume and poured it over his head.

Matthew 26:8

The disciples were indignant
when they saw this.

“What a waste!” they said.

Matthew 26:9

“It could have been sold for a high price and the money given to the poor.” [Mark 14:5]

So they scolded her harshly.

Principle #1

Every one of us, even as
believers and followers of Christ,
has an inner darkness.

Principle #2

We often externalize our inner darkness by projecting it onto others.

Projecting

The subconscious transferring and attributing of one's own inner darkness onto others in order to continue denying its existence in themselves.

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in charge of the disciples' money,
he often stole some for himself.

Why We Project...

It helps us avoid taking responsibility for ourselves and instead makes others the “bad guy”.

Principle #2

Our inner darkness is often externalized by projecting it onto others.

Principle #3

Discovering your inner darkness
requires a revelation from God
and humility.

Mark 14:1-9

Mark 14:6

But Jesus replied, “Leave her alone. Why criticize her for doing such a good thing to me?”

Mark 14:7

You will always have the poor among you, and you can help them whenever you want to. But you will not always have me.

Mark 14:8

She has done what she could and
has anointed my body for burial
ahead of time.

Mark 14:9

I tell you the truth, wherever the Good News is preached throughout the world, this woman's deed will be remembered and discussed.”

Principle #3

Discovering your inner darkness
requires a revelation from God
and humility.

Principle #4

The Lord desires to expose your darkness to you, so your sins can be forgiven, so your wounds can be healed, and so your darkness can be illuminated by His light.

Examples of Projecting?

“He/She Hates Me”

When we have a strong dislike for someone (usually for an inappropriate reason) it is common for us to project our feelings onto them.

“He/She is so _____”

When we have deep-seeded insecurities about our own body image, intelligence, competency, self-esteem, self-worth, etc., we subconsciously project our self-loathing onto others.

“If I had to do it, so do you”

When we have deep-seeded trauma, unresolved pain, or unhealthy pride as a result of overcoming a dysfunctional situation, we expect others and often force others to experience the same sufferings, cruelties, heartlessness, or mercilessness we experienced.

Other Examples

- Living vicariously through your children or other loved ones.
- Unsubstantiated and excessive suspicions that your partner is unfaithful.
- Inappropriate, emotionally charged responses to standard conversation.

Principle #4

The Lord desires to expose your darkness to you, so your sins can be forgiven, so your wounds can be healed, and so your darkness can be illuminated by His light.

Principle #5

God loves you unconditionally in spite of your inner darkness.

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