

Sermon Summary – February 15, 2015, Pastor Alan Smith

“Let it Shine”

The touch of the Master’s hand is a poem written in 1921 that illustrates how the world looks at people that aren’t up to its standard. Here in the poem it says *“what changed its worth?” and the answer came: “‘Twas the touch of the master’s hand.” And many a man with soul out of tune, battered and scarred by sin is auctioned cheap by the thoughtless crowd just like the old violin.*” The world has an idea of what perfection is and if we don’t fit into that ideal then we are treated differently. I think of the award shows like the Grammys or the Oscars and the people walking the red carpet. People are taking pictures of the artists, actors, and actresses then the next day you will read an article or see an entertainment show where they have the best and worst dressed. They point out the imperfections. Sometimes they poke fun at them because the individuals don’t measure up to the standard.

This idea of perfection has crept into the Church. We come to church with pain, sorrow, hurts, and struggles, but we keep them to ourselves because we don’t want people to know what we are going through. We also hide our past indiscretions because we don’t want people to know our sorted past. We use phrases like “I’m OK” and “Everything is going well” or “I’m fine.” We take our scars from the wounds of life and hide them.

God has touched each one of us and healed us of our sin. It is through God’s great compassion and love that He sent Jesus to be the sacrifice for our sins. Why do we hide the things we are struggling with or the things that we have done in our past? Paul writes in **2 Corinthians 4:6-7** **For God, who said, “Let there be light in the darkness,” has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ. 7 We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.** We are fragile clay jars with imperfections, chips, and cracks. It is God’s power that has healed us. It is God’s power that has taken away our sin. No one is perfect and if we understand that, maybe we can be proud of the work that God has done and is doing in our lives.

How can we reach a world that throws the imperfect away if we act like we are perfect? If we hide our imperfections, then the imperfect people of the world will not see us any different than the world. Some people take a sofa or chair where the upholstery is torn or stained and they put a slipcover on it. It looks like new, but the stains are still there. If we allow the light of God's healing power to shine through our cracks and imperfections, others will see how great God is. Our stories of how God has touched us may speak to the heart of someone else that is struggling too. We are all just beggars that can tell other beggars where they can find food. Open up your heart today and tell others your story!