

THE STEWARDSHIP PAPERS

Let There Be Light

Imagine, if you will, somewhere out in space, a world very similar to ours. Well, almost similar; for on this world lives a people who are blind.

Countless generations have come and gone...countless lives begun and ended in a darkness hardly noticed anymore.

And then, one day, a child is born...a child who can see.

The trees are green...the sunset, crimson...snowflakes, white and sparkling. All the gifts of light are his and his alone. And they are as natural to him as “night and day,” for there never was a time when he was blind. [Gen 1:1-5]

(Now, we'll ignore, in our imagining, that Mendel's law of heredity might lead us to believe that such a birth is impossible...that at least one of his parents had to have had sight [Lk. 1:35]; for the fact is that this child was born and could see...and the rest of the world was blind.)

But, how does such a child describe the beauty of a sunset to someone who's never seen the sun? Or, how does he describe the colors of a rainbow to someone who doesn't even know that rainbows “are”?...a world that doesn't know.

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You wouldn't say to such a world, "You ought to know better!" for how are they to know?...at least the ones who walk in total darkness. For there are different shades of blindness: the eyes that can't perceive any light at all and those that can perceive a dimness, marked by shadows. [Romans 5:13]

And the most probable place for this child to begin (not only his life, but in teaching the world that light does exist and what it is like), is among a people "less blind" than others. (Matt. 15:24)

He might begin by relating it to something they already understand...like the sense of touch. He might explain that some colors feel warmer than others: that "black," for instance, feels warmer than "white."

There'd probably be many who'd think he was crazy, and others who'd resent this intrusion into their well-ordered sense of being. [Matt. 13:13-15]

But, some would listen...

And some would comprehend, through his eyes, the difference they were beginning to feel...

And some would understand, in their own unique ways, the beauty and complexity of light [Lk. 6:39,40]...finding out, in the process, that

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"The kingdom of heaven is at hand" [Matt. 10:7]

and one way to "see" the light is to "reach out and touch"...in more than one sense of the Word.

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