

## DARKNESS

Scripture reference: When Jesus spoke...to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

I tried a new running workout a while back. I thoroughly enjoy running the trail around the Monroe Country Club golf course. A few weeks ago, I tried something new with it---I ran it in the dark. Okay, it wasn't totally dark, I had a small headlamp on which lit up a small area in front of me while I ran. I had to adjust my pace and I had to be hyper alert to footing along the trail, as well as turns and getting too close to the edge. Never mind the fact that if an animal had been on the trail I would have ran right into it before I could have seen it. My wife said I was crazy. After all, I have been chased by a rabid raccoon on this trail before and seen a coyote crossing the road that heads right to the trail.

When I did that run in the dark, I had to trust that little bit of light from the headlamp to guide me along the trail. I read that honeybees navigate their way back to their hives by using the sun. What happens if the honeybee doesn't make it back before the sun sets or the sky becomes so cloudy that the sun is blocked? If it is dark, do the bees get lost by flying toward a false sun, like a porch light? How often do we follow the wrong light? Do we trust things like money and possessions to get us to the places we need to be? Do we get lost like the honeybee who travels by the porch light instead of the true light that should guide it?

It is easy to allow ourselves to be guided by the wrong light when it is dim all around us or maybe even dark. That wrong light might be like the old joke that says you see the light at the end of the tunnel but realize too late that it is an oncoming train. In these times we are living in now, there seems to be an abundance of folks out there claiming to be the best guidance for us. Some of them are even saying they are Christian so therefore they know best. I say be wary of everyone who says they know the best way and that they should be the light that guides us. When you feel like you are about to be overwhelmed by the darkness, remember what the gospel of John told us in the focal passage for today. Jesus said "I am the light of the world."