

Lesson 4: light to dark, gradients, opposites, contrast, drama

"And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: He made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good." Genesis 1:16

On earth, night and day are opposites but both have light ruling them.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." In the spiritual realm, the Light of the world rules as well, at all times. Satan is on a leash.

In the sky it looks darker the further away it is. This is mirrored on earth where the closer the object is to us, the darker it is. The closer we are to the light; the lighter things look. When other things are in front of the light we won't see them clearly. This is called **backlight** in photography and is overcome by putting a closer light between us and the subject - flashlight.

The things in the physical realm tell us something about God and us. What does this suggest or mean for us?

If we want to walk in the light, we will need the Light to be closer than anything else. Jesus is the light of the world. He is our focus, not other people. Let Him be closer to us than anything else.

When opposites such as light and dark are seen together (high key and low key values), the result is contrast. Contrast means difference. Contrast creates interest, variety and emphasis. Sometimes it also creates drama. We are made in the image of God, and we are different. Sometimes this difference creates drama.

"Pursue peace with all men, as well as holiness, without which no one will see the Lord." (Hebrews 12:14) What does it mean to pursue holiness with all people? Not blaming others? The Lord is our Lord. We listen to/focus on Him?

"To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure" (Titus 1:15). "Be careful that no one falls short of the grace of God, so that no root of bitterness will spring up to cause trouble and defile many." (Hebrews 12:14-15) How? "Race or grace?"

We have Jesus as our example: He said, "*Not all of you are clean.*" "Then, after washing their feet and putting on his robe again, he took his seat and said to them, *Do you see what I have done to you? ... If then I, the Lord and the Master, have made your feet clean, it is right for you to make one another's feet clean*" (John 13). Questioning was an important part of Jesus's ministry.

Notice: Jesus gave everyone the opportunity to examine themselves rather than expose Judas.

What does it mean to make other's feet clean? Jesus had just referred to Judas as being unclean. How could His disciples have made Judas feet clean?

Does it begin with knowing we have all sinned and fallen short, in the area of God's glory being revealed in and through us and that today is still the "year of God's favour" (Luke 4:19).

At dusk things can be so dark, they become silhouettes. What do we associate with darkness?

How do we overcome the darkness? Ask Jesus. It's not a formula of words, like bind and rebuke. It involves a relationship. Our power is the Holy Spirit. "The truth will set you free" –use questions to draw out the truth. Acknowledge Christ. Submit to Him and the enemy will flee. Use the sword of God's word for the occasion: "for God did not give us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7). "Perfect love casts out fear" (1 John 4:18). Turn on the light and the darkness will flee. Sometimes we try and chase the darkness away and encourage it, instead of turning on the light. Light warms and comforts. What other things does light do? "Walk in the light" (1 John 1:7). "Therefore be followers of God, as dear children; and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour" (Ephesians 5:1). Women too are called to love sacrificially. God is love, so walk in Him. What does "in Him" mean?



A horizontal gradient goes from dark to light as the mountain recedes into the distance. Closer things are darker (unless a light closer than the sun shines on them (like us loving and interceding?).



A vertical gradient within a mountain range gives a misty effect. Start painting the background before the foreground, those things that are furthest away in this exercise. I.e. the sky then the highest mountain tops. Dry each section before painting the next. Rule of thirds – place point of interest a third of the way across and a third of the way up - from the bottom in this case.



As the mountains surround Jerusalem, So the LORD surrounds His people from this time forth and forever. Psalm 125:2

