

Light and Darkness

I lived only two blocks away from my high school, so I walked to and from school. I usually returned home well before nightfall. One day in late October, I had to go back to school for evening play practice. I told my mom where I was going. She was concerned that I would be walking by myself at night. She would have driven me, but our two cars were in use, so she suggested my brother walk with me. I told her that was ridiculous. The school was only ten minutes away, and we lived in a safe and well-lit neighborhood. But she insisted that my brother walk with me and that I get a ride home.

My mom's concern made me think. I knew that she wasn't worried about me walking to school during the day, because there are a lot more people around, and it's light outside. But at night, it's the opposite. Often people who wish to harm others do so under the cover of night, not during broad daylight. They are evildoers whose actions would be exposed if carried out during the day.

While Jesus was not speaking literally about nighttime stalkers in John 3:18–21, he was talking about sinful people. But criminals aren't the only ones who hide their sins in the darkness. When we put other things before God or when we're jealous or resentful, we are hiding in spiritual darkness. And if we stay in the dark too long, we'll get lost. We must remember that Jesus came into the world to love us and to provide light so that we won't be lost anymore.

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