

The story of Hanukkah is God's light breaking into the darkness

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Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16

All the Darkness in the World...

...can't hold back the light of the smallest flame. I remember this lyric from a song I regularly listened to as a young man. This is an especially apropos theme for Hanukkah when we are to be reminded of the light of God and how we are to shine that light to those around us. These lights are mostly small and seemingly insignificant. But, they matter to God.

Did you know that God has prepared good deeds for us to walk in? (Ephesians

2:10) If we are spiritually sensitive then we will see more of these opportunities as they arise. I frequently want these deeds to be profound and readily visible to those around me. But the vast majority of the "good deeds" that we walk in will not be of this variety. Most of these "actions of light" will be somewhat small, obscure, and often unseen and not validated by others. But these actions do make a difference as we continue to walk them out.

I've found that the majority of these good deed opportunities are with the people who are closest to me. These are typically the ones that I find the most challenging to be Yeshua-like around and they most regularly seem to be the least aware or appreciative of these actions. But, if I'm consistently connecting with Yeshua then these actions become easier....as a byproduct of a greater Love. At these times I'm not so concerned about being acknowledged but in pleasing the One I love.

As we reminisce on Hanukkah this year let's ask YHWH to help us be more aware of the opportunities that He's put in front of us to be a light and encouragement to those around us. Let's not minimize or ignore the small loving actions that we can do to be a light and an encouragement to others.