

## The Lights Of The World

Text : **Matt. 5: 1-16**

### **INTRODUCTION :**

#### **A. This text is part of the greatest sermon every preached.**

1. This context was delivered to His followers, His disciples.
  - a. **Matt. 5: 1<sup>b</sup>-2** “... and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him.  
2 He opened His mouth and *began* to teach them, saying, ...”
  - b. Thus, this was instructions for believers. ( **It's irrelevant to lost people.** )
2. The “beatitudes” ( Vs. **4-12** ) were to communicate a value system, attitudes and responses disciples should have toward life on earth.
3. The context we're studying ( Vs. **13-16** ) is the practical application of that character.

#### **B. In our last lesson we examined the significance of being “the salt of the earth.”**

**We observed that salt : ( Christians )**

1. Preserves
2. Purifies
3. Creates thirst and
4. Flavors ( consistent )
5. But it is of value only when in contact with that to be seasoned.

**\* As the salt of the earth, the Christian performs all these functions on earth.**

#### **C. With this lesson we will observe some of the significance behind Jesus describing His followers as “the light of the world.”**

1. Jesus referred to His disciples as being the light of the world.
  - a. These disciples were common people.
  - b. None were highly educated or well known. ( *They weren't leaders or educators.* )
  - c. They were people taken from among the people who were to illuminate the people.
2. The greatest thinkers of all time were well known hundreds of years before Jesus.
  - a. Until this day when asked who were the greatest thinkers of all time, Plato, Socrates, and Aristotle are among the first listed.
  - b. Jesus said those who follow Him **are the light of the world**, not the great educators.
  - c. The Apostle Paul explained that the wise of this world tend to prefer darkness.

**Read ... I Cor. 1: 18-25**

3. Today men tend to seek enlightenment from :
  - a. Scholars and educators
  - b. Counselors and Psychiatrists
  - c. Scientists and Researchers
4. Followers of Jesus must never feel inferior before the educated of this world.
  - a. Their wisdom is of value only on this dying planet.
  - b. Thus, it is of value for only a flash of time ... not eternally.
  - c. Jesus chose us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

**As lights, we lead men out of darkness to the preservation of their souls.**

### **TRANSITION :**

**It is our goal with this lesson to understand :**

- 1- **What it means to be lights.**
- 2- **Who is the light.**
- 3- **Where the light is to shine.**
- 3- **Why the light is to shine.**

### **I. What does it mean to be lights in the world.**

#### **A. Light is essential for physical life on planet earth.**

1. God created light before plants or animals because neither could survive w/o it.
  - a. House plants don't do well unless they get light.
  - b. The metabolism of the plant requires light. ( photosynthesis )
2. Animals require light in varying degrees.
  - a. Without light the plants do not produce food or oxygen for us to breath.
  - b. Eyesight requires some amount of light.

#### **B. God is the light which gives spiritual life. ( W/O Him there is no life. )**

1. **I John 1: 5-** This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.
2. **Rev. 22:5-** And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.

**God is light. Therefore, the absence of God is darkness.**

**C. While on the earth, Jesus was its spiritual light.**

1. **John 1: 4-5** In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.  
     **5** The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness  
     did not comprehend it. ( Cf – vs 14 )
2. **John 8:12-** Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light;  
     of the world he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness,  
     but will have the Light of life.”

**D. When Jesus left the world, there was a need for light on the earth.**

1. **John 9:5-** While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world.
2. Our text explains that the followers of Jesus are  
     to take up His function on the earth. **BE LIGHT**
  - a. Jesus calls people out of darkness to make them proclaimers of light.  
     **I Pet. 2:9-** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,  
     a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim  
     the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness  
     into His marvelous light;
  - \* b. **All who are in the light must proclaim the light to those in darkness.**
3. Whether physical or spiritual, light is that which dispels darkness.  
     \* **There is no such thing as a bright light in a dark room.  
     When the light is bright, there is no more darkness.**

**II. Who is the light ? Every Christian is a light.****A. Every Christian IS a light. ( Conversely, one who is not a light, not a Christian. )**

1. Jesus is light.
  - a. Christians are IN Christ Jesus. ( i.e., in light ) ( **Gal. 3: 26-27** )
  - b. The church is Christ’s body on the earth. ( **Eph. 1:20-23** )
  - c. Thus, if you are in Christ, you are in His body and  
     all who are in Him are what He is .. **LIGHT**.
2. Thus, if you are in Christ, you ARE a light.
  - a. **Matt. 5: 14-** You are the light of the world. ( **Not ... you do light things.** )
  - b. The Apostle Paul reminds the brethren in Philippi about this truth :  
     **Read ... Phil. 2: 14-16a**

**B. To refuse to function as a light for Christ, it to rebel against God.**

1. Conversion to Christ entails :
  - a. Surrendering one's will to God. ( **Accepting His sovereignty over our life.** )
  - b. Being transformed by having one's heart changed. ( Cf - **Rom. 12: 2, II cor. 5:15** )
2. Only evil people who reject God's sovereignty shy away from the light.
 

**John 3:20-21** For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been done in God.

**C. Being a light is not reserved to church leaders.**

1. You can't appoint someone else to do your shining. ( **Elders, Deacons, etc.** )
2. You can't hire someone else to do your shining. ( **Preacher** )
3. If you are a Christian, you are a light lit by Jesus Himself. **You will shine.**

**III. Where is the light to shine ?****A. The light of the believer may not be hidden.**

1. **Text ...** vs. **15-16a** nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. <sup>16</sup> Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see ...
2. The lamp is to shine where it is ...
  - a. Not across the street or on the other side of the world.
  - b. Missions are important, but they do not substitute for shining where you are.
  - c. This is the message of many songs we sing, e.g. :
    - 1) "This Little Light Of Mine"
    - 2) "Brighten The Corner Where You Are"
    - 3) "Let The Lower Lights Be Burning"

**B. The purpose of the lamp is to provide light for ALL who are near.**

1. It is not for selected individuals. **Light shines on all.**
  - a. Not just family and friends.
  - b. Not just those we think might be interested.
2. The light shining is a public activity.
  - a. We are not given the option of hiding it.

- b. For Christians to put their light under a basket makes Jesus look foolish.  
 ( **nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, refers to Jesus lighting you.** )

**C. The light must shine where ever there is darkness.**

\* **TOO often we limit our light to the church building.** ( Command “**GO**” )

1. The very purpose of the light is to dispel darkness.  
**John 12: 46-** I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness.  
 \* **When you cause someone to believe in Jesus as Christ, you dispel the darkness from their heart and bring in light.**
2. The darkness does not always like being dispelled.  
**John 3:20-** For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.
3. The darkness will often try to overcome the light.  
**John 1:5-** The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overpower it.
4. The best way to resist the darkness is to expose it.  
**Read ... Eph. 5: 6-16**

**IV. Why should I shine as the light of the world ?**

**A. Your shining is God’s plan to save the world.**

1. While on the earth, Jesus was personally the light, but when He returned to Heaven to intercede for you, He left you behind to shine in His stead.
2. God has NO “**Plan B**” ... **You’re all there is; you are the hope of this city.**

**B. Your light should shine because it brings glory to God.**

1. **ILL.- How does one become recognized as a great architect ? Build great buildings. ( exceptional in form & function )**
2. Christ created you. When people observe your life, it should bring glory to God.
  - a. Their experience with you it should be like putting salt on their food.
  - b. **I John 1:6-7** This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.  
**7 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;**
  - c. **I John 2:6-** the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked. ( cf- **Luke 19: 10** )
3. **Eph. 2:10** ... Christ created us for the purpose of doing good works to His glory.

**C. Our shining is not for our own glory.**

1. **Matt. 23: 5-8** ... The Pharisees wanted to be personally glorified by their deeds.
2. The flesh calls out for recognition, **but** the servant of God seeks HIS glory.

**ILL.** **Have you ever been in a group while someone who did much less than you got recognition, but not you.**

- **How did that make you feel ?**
  - **The unspiritual seek credit for their works.** (*preachers*)
3. **Matt. 6: 2-6 , 16-18** ... Those who seek honor from men get none from God.

**CONCLUSION :****A. Christians are created FOR the very purpose of bringing glory our creator.**

1. **Col. 1:16** Christians “**have been created through Him and for Him.**”
2. **Eph. 2: 10** Christians are “**created in Christ Jesus for good works.**”
3. **Matt. 5: 16** Christians “**Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works.**”
4. **Matt. 5: 16** Christians do good works to “**glorify your Father who is in heaven.**”
5. **Glorify** (*doxazo*) to make glorious, adorn with lustre, clothe with splendour.  
( Strong’s Lexicon )

**B. Doing Good works does not make one light.**

1. Jesus makes us light.
2. When one **IS** light, he shines. **Thus, if we are not shining, we are not light.**

**C. Our study has shown us :**

1. God / Jesus is light, thus, being godly is being light.
2. Being a Christian means one **IS** light.
3. Because a Christian **IS** light, he shines where ever he happens to be.
4. The Christians shines **AS LIGHT** in order to glorify God.

**INVITATION :**

- A. **Christian ... Is your light shining -or- is it under a basket ?**
- B. **Have you allowed Jesus to make you a light ? If not yet .....**