

**SHINE
YOUR
LIGHT**

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May 19, 2013

Sermon in a sentence: Your light matters: let it shine for Jesus.

Scriptures: Matt. 5:14-16 (on a mountain - v.1-2); **Mark 4:21-22** (on a boat - v.1-2; Luke 8:4,16); **Luke 11:33-36** (unspecified setting)

Matt. 5:14-16 NASB “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; 15 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. 16 “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

Mark 4:21-22 NASB And He was saying to them, “ A lamp is not brought to be put under a basket, is it, or under a bed? Is it not *brought* to be put on the lampstand? 22 “For nothing is hidden, except to be revealed; nor has anything been secret, but that it would come to light. 23 “If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.”

Luke 11:33-36 NASB “ No one, after lighting a lamp, puts it away in a cellar nor under a basket, but on the lampstand, so that those who enter may see the light. 34 “The eye is the lamp of your body; when your eye is clear, your whole body also is full of light; but when it is bad, your body also is full of darkness. 35 “Then watch out that the light in you is not darkness. 36 “If therefore your whole body is full of light, with no dark part in it, it will be wholly illumined, as when the lamp illumines you with its rays.”

To teach His eternal truths, Jesus often used parables to get His point across. These were common stories about everyday events that would quickly and easily make His

spiritual points understandable. There are approximately 40 of them in the Gospels and the one we have just read is the shortest. It also seems to have been one of Jesus' favorites as He told it on at least three different occasions, to make three different points (Mt. 5; Mk. 4; Lu.11).

1. The first use in Matt. 5 makes the point that **our good works are like lights that reveal God to those around us, causing them to glorify Him.**

When we speak of "New Birth" and the necessity to share Jesus with others, we instinctively think about speaking words to others. Certainly, there is no question or argument concerning the fact that we must *speak* about Jesus if we desire to share Him. However, there is also no question that the works we do, (or do not do), are crucial to empowering or disempowering our words! We often quote a little phrase that speaks to this truth: "Actions speak louder than words".

Our good works force people to acknowledge that we are not simply 'talking the walk'. We are actually 'walking the talk'. Harmony between our talk and walk gives us credibility and power. A disjunction between talk and walk shows us to be powerless hypocrites.

2. What is the source and foundation of our good works? The 'eye lamp', as stated in Lu. 11:34: "The eye is the lamp of your body".

What the eye sees becomes light or darkness to our bodies. **The eye becomes a key gateway that brings either light or darkness into our lives.** If the eye lamp shows the body the light of the word of God, it will live and act in godly ways. Seeing purity, love, compassion, forgiveness, and all the fruit of the Spirit through the eye lamp is crucial to a life of good works.

However, if the eye lamp is defective, it brings darkness into the body. If we consistently see violence, immorality, revenge, racism, discrimination and lying, we will end up following these bad examples. So, “be careful little eyes what you see”!

3. Thirdly, **the light reveals secrets.**

When we walk into the bathroom every morning as we prepare to face the outside world, we turn the lights on to see ourselves in the mirror. There are certain secrets the light reveals, and we are thus able to take corrective action.

Much of the criminal activity in our society takes place at night, in the dark. The simple presence of light is a deterrent to wrongdoing.

The light of the Word of God shows us who God is, how He thinks, and what His will is concerning our lives. It reveals secrets of our own wrongheaded thinking and actions, giving us the opportunity to take corrective action while we still have the opportunity.

In dealing with the revealing light, we realize that “God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all” (1 Jn. 1:5). He is the creator of light (Gen. 1:3), and is Himself the glorious light that illuminates His eternal kingdom (Rev. 21:23). Yet while on earth in the flesh, He looked at His audience during His Sermon on the Mount and stated: “You are the light of the world”! (Emphasis added).

We must allow His light into our hearts so it can then be reflected out to those around us, causing them to glorify God. So, as the songwriter said: “This little light of mine, I’m going to let it shine.”