

Morning Sermon March 15, 2020

"You are Light, Shine Bright!" Matthew 5:14-16

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14–16 (NKJV)

I. *The people Jesus is calling "the light of the world" are the same "blessed" different people described in the beatitudes –*

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. Matthew 5:14 A -

These are the people who were poor in spirit, mourning over sin, hungering and thirsting after righteousness, who were filled with righteousness, made pure in heart, who are peace-makers, these are people who are different, who SHINE BRIGHT in a DARK world –

1. *This means we grow into being lights, or brighter lights –*
 - A. *We start poor in spirit – Matthew 5:3*
 - B. *We work up to being pure in heart / peace-makers – Matthew 5:8-9*
 - C. *This is a working toward an ever increasing Christ-likeness, He has the name "Light of the world" which he gives to us –*

¹² Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." John 8:12 (NKJV)

2. *This means the same extreme difference communicated in the beatitudes is displayed here, we are lights in a dark world –*

¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, Philippians 2:15 (NKJV)

- A. *The world we live in is crooked and perverse, dark*
- B. *In it we are to SHINE –*

⁵ And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. John 1:5 (NKJV)

- C. *The light / darkness difference is extreme –*

⁴ And God saw the light, that *it was good*; and God divided the light from the darkness. Genesis 1:4 (NKJV)

D. *This is a spiritual, moral, even emotional difference – Light is pronounced "good" darkness is not!*

Gloom / oppression are related to darkness -

⁹ Nevertheless the gloom will not be upon her who is distressed, As when at first He lightly esteemed The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, And afterward more heavily oppressed her, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, In Galilee of the Gentiles. ² The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined.

Isaiah 9:1-2 (NKJV)

See joy and victory in Isaiah 9:3-5

It is light Christ brings -

⁶ For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of His government and peace *There will be no end*, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. Isaiah 9:6-7 (NKJV)

II. *As it was Christ's purpose, His mission to bring light into a dark world, so it is ours –*

1. *It is our mission as the church / City set on a hill -*

A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. Matthew 5:14 B - :15

- A. *Jerusalem was set on a hill*
- B. *Jesus' sermon is on a Mount*
- C. *Metaphorically, the righteousness of Christ, God's righteousness is a high hill –*

¹⁹ The LORD God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer's feet, And He will make me walk on my high hills. Habakkuk 3:19 (NKJV)

D. *Applying the teachings of the Beatitudes, of Christ, of Scripture in general make the church different / obvious, we cannot be hidden if we keep God's / Christ's commandments, it is obedience that makes us SHINE –*

³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:34–35 (NKJV)

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.

¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain. Philippians 2:12–16 (NKJV)

2. *The mission we have as a body, is also ours as individuals –*

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

A. *We have the purpose described in the Westminster Shorter Catechism to glorify God –*

Question 1 What is the chief end of man?

Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

B. *This is a high calling to glorify God –*

C. *It is something we should keep in mind always and in all we do*

–

³¹ Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31 (NKJV)

D. *Being light, shining includes “good works” that are ours and glorify our Father in Heaven –*

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is the gift of God*, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:8–10 (NKJV)

- *Good works are rooted in God’s grace*
- *Yet, they are like poetry, a work of art, different for each person, for each Christian ...*

III. *How can we be lights? How do we apply this teaching?*

1. *By realizing it is more of the same: when we are poor in spirit, mourning over sin, meek, hungering and thirsting after righteousness, when we are pure and peacemakers, we are Christ-like and we are lights or are at least becoming lights!*

2. *Light is in the Word, the Bible because it is light –*

¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105 (NKJV) *Teaching, preaching, sharing God’s Word, even singing God’s Word is shining the light!*

“Lord, I want to take your word and shine it all around” Keith Green

3. *Light is increased with love –*

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Romans 8:28–29 (NKJV)

A. *The Romans 8:28 people (1) Love God (2) are called according to His purpose – part of His purpose is our shining!*

⁴ “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. Deuteronomy 6:4–5 (NKJV)

B. *The all your heart, all your soul, all your strength love, shines BRIGHT!*

C. *Lights are made for a purpose, learn how to fulfil yours, one of the great lies is there is no purpose or meaning to life / creation – evolution...*

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