



## Becoming a People Who... Are the Light of the World

Matthew 5:14-16

Message Notes: April 7, 2019

In his famous "Sermon on the Mount," Jesus declares, with vivid imagery, who we are as his people in the world...you are the light of the world."

Light. It is essential for life in so many ways ... warmth, sight, photosynthesis! (which nourishes plants, the start of the food-chain).

But light is no good if it is hidden or covered, like putting a lamp under a bowl/basket. At best, this snuffs out the light; at worst, the basket will catch fire and wreak havoc and cause people to flee.

No, Jesus says, light needs to be revealed, released, lifted high, like a lamp on a stand or a city on a hill. He goes on to connect this analogy to our actual live... "LET your light shine before others that they may SEE your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." vs 16

The scriptures use light many times to represent the essence of God:

- \* I John 1:5 GOD is light
- \* John 1:4 In Him, the Word [JESUS], was life and this life was the light of mankind"
- \* John 8:12 JESUS declares himself to be the light of the world
- \* Matt 5:14 Here Jesus declares that WE (his followers) are the light of the world.

God's light (life) in Jesus; who came onto the world to shine the light of God; and then as he ascended he declared that his followers would "be his witnesses," His **light-bearers** in all the world (by the power of his Holy Spirit who would indwell them).

HOW do we shine our light/his light?

- \* John 13:3-4 Servanthood. On the night he was betrayed, as he and the 12 disciples shared the Passover meal, Jesus girded himself with a towel, knelt, and washed the disciples' feet. Afterwards, he essentially said – as I have washed your feet, so should you wash one another's feet.
- \* John 13:34-35 Love. "A new commandment I give to you, love one another. By this, other will know you are my followers."
- \* Romans 12:9-21 A pretty good list of ways to "shine"
- \* Matt 28:18-20 We know it as the great commission – to GO, teach, make disciples, SHINE his gospel.

The Holy Spirit is IN us. His light is IN us. We ARE light-bearers. Our role is "to LET this light shine" . . . To not hide it; to not hinder it; to not snuff it with selfishness, worldliness, sinfulness.

HE is the light of the world.

WE are the light of the world.

YOU are the light of the world.

I am the light of the world.

May we let his light shine through us, to those around us - where we live, work, play - so they can see the light and be drawn to the One who gives light and life!