

Glorify God With your Light (Mathew 5:14-16)

A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; ¹⁵ nor do people 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 Your light must shine before people in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

We talked last week about Jesus saying that we are the light of the world, and how giving light as a Christian is not _____, it's what we are as a Christian.

A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;

A city set on a hill takes deliberate _____ to build. Many of the ancient cities were set on hilltops for one main reason: they were _____. It also was an announcement to everyone in the area that if you want control of the area, this is the place you should _____. As a Christian, you take the high ground with you wherever you go, since spiritually, there's no _____ ground than Calvary's hill. That's where you _____, and that's who and what you stand for, as a Christian. We have one central _____, one light to give the world, the same light that Paul proclaimed in 2Corinthians 2:2 **For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.** If you truly bear the light of Jesus, then you're going to be a _____ for persecution. This verse doesn't say a city on a hill should not be hidden, it says _____ be hidden. This means that any attempt on the part of a true Christian to hide their light is only going to meet with _____. Hebrews 10:38b **And if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him.** This shrinking back is the _____ of faith. It's letting our _____ (and generally this means fear of persecution) control us to the point that we try to _____ who we are in Christ. Not shrinking back is the obligation of the Christian: (Heb. 10:39) **39 But we are not among those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith for the safekeeping of the soul.**

¹⁵ nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.

Remember that people in Jesus' day lit their houses using terra-cotta _____ lamps. The lamp must be filled with oil. Romans 8:9 makes clear **However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.** One of the things that I find interesting about Jesus' example is that it's a _____ example that everyone is familiar with. The _____ place that gets to benefit from the light that we shine is around the house. And this means that we are a light to our families first. And that can mean our _____ family, or our _____ family. In Ephesians 4:11, Paul emphasizes that the ministries empowered by Holy Spirit filled believers is regarded as a gift to other believers in the church saying in verses 11-12 **And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;** So, _____ our spiritual family is expressly stated as one of the reasons for the gifts. And this means that if you don't use yours, then the Body, other believers, are _____ since the ministry you have is not being done.

Now, the word used in Mathew 5:15 for measuring bowl, or basket, or bushel means a particular quantity of grain, as measured by a _____ or _____. The idea is that placing the lit lamp under a basket or bowl would _____ the whole purpose of lighting a lamp. Since God doesn't do anything that is useless, if you are a true believer, sooner or later you will _____ the light of Christ. The only question is what God's going to have to allow into your life to _____ that bowl or basket covering your light!

¹⁶ Your light must shine before people in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.'

It is the _____ of light to shine, and we have the light of Christ within us. Jesus said in Mathew 5:16 that our light _____ shine. The second thing to notice is that it must shine before _____. That means that being a closet Christian doesn't cut it.

And the last thing to notice is the one and only ultimate purpose for our being a light to the world is to bring glory to God. We are to let our light shine in such a way that God is _____.

Later in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus warns us to do our good works in secret, saying in Mathew 6 vs. 1: **Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.**

When we minister, we must make sure that the glory is given to God. It's _____ light that we shine, _____ light, it doesn't originate with us. Glorifying ourselves will harm us in terms of our reward in heaven, but it will also harm us now, allowing pride to swell, and arrogance to form. We are all subject to this, and so we must all guard against it. By pride Lucifer fell. And we must be **careful, if we think we stand, lest we fall.** Mathew 23:2 says **Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.** Galatians 6:3 **For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.**

Proverbs 25:27 says **It is not good to eat much honey, Nor is it glory to search out one's own glory.** Seeking your own glory will make you _____. The purpose of man is to glorify God. We were made to _____ Him.

And there is a consequence for not _____ this mission, both individually and as a church. Jesus says to the Church at Ephesus: **4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. 5 Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.** We must overcome the spirit of complacency that wants us to coast to the finish line. We must _____ up, and _____ awake.