

Reproduction #3

Pray: Ask the Lord to help you light up the world.

Read: Matthew 5:14-16

Jesus called us salt and light- we are to be tasted and seen by the world. Today you will discover how to be light.

1. Jesus said, "You are the..." (v.14a)

Physics shows us that darkness must give way to light. Light can be blocked, but when it does shine, darkness has no choice but to flee. We are to be visible to the world.

2. What do you think Jesus meant when He said, "A city set on a hill cannot be hidden?"(v. 14b)

Jesus says Christians are like two sources of light. First, a city on a Mountain; straightaway the people Jesus was talking to would have thought of cities they knew of that were built on mountains with houses made of white limestone, these towns glistened in the sun and couldn't be hidden. In the same way we are to be seen to live our lives as shining examples of what it means to be a Christian.

3. What should not be done with a lamp? (v.15a)

The second source of light was a candle. Most homes in those days had just one room and you did most things in it. To one side of the room would be a large chest full of pots and baskets and bowls. And at night when it was time to eat the chest would be dragged in the centre of the room and used as a dinner table. On the table they would place a candle or lamp and it would be the only light in the room. And as the family gathered around the table they would have their backs to the darkness and the light illuminated their faces

4. What do men normally do with a lamp? (v. 15b) What application does that have for us? (*Thought Question*)

Those people listening to Jesus would have known the importance of the light in the centre of the room. And when Jesus mentioned the idea of someone putting a basket or a bowl over it they probably laughed- it would have been stupid to cover the only light in the room. We cannot and should not hide Christ in our lives. We should give light to our house, light to our city, and light to all men.

5. What is the directive contained in this passage? (v. 16)

Jesus wants us to live the kind of life that will illuminate the truth for people, and will shine the light of His compassion to the dark places where there is despair. He is telling us to live the kind of life that will attract people to Him, because ultimately, He said, "I am the light of life."

6. What are you doing with your light? How can you fuel it to a fire? (*Thought Questions*)

Pray together; ask the Lord to teach you how to shine for Him.