



Sermon Series: All Signs Point to Jesus

To be used with Session 6: The Sign of His Light

Sermon Title: Seeing Jesus Through Us

Scripture: Matthew 5:14-16

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the Bible study “The Sign of His Light,” this sermon builds upon today’s Bible study by reflecting upon the fact that Jesus called Himself the light of the world and that He calls us to reflect this light to others.

Introduction: How many of us today knew that moonlight is merely a reflection of the light provided by the sun? That’s right! The moon does not generate any light on its own. If the sun did not provide the needed resources, we would not have any moonlight. We learned in our Bible study this morning that Jesus is the light of the world. We will learn in today’s sermon that Jesus called His disciples to be the light of the world. We are able to do this because He is our source. We will also learn that, when we are faithful to reflect His light, God gets the glory.

1. The calling: Be the light (v. 14).

As we start studying this passage, we must once again look at context. Matthew 5–7 is known as the Sermon on the Mount, which is one of the first recorded sermons from Jesus. He began the sermon with the beatitudes which serve as a character study of a follower of Jesus. Upon the completion of the beatitudes, Jesus told His followers that they are salt and light. This is where our study picks up.

As we look at verse 14, we need to study at three specific words in the original language. The first is the word “you.” Close study of this word shows that it is a plural pronoun. Since it is plural, we can discern that Jesus was not speaking to one follower, but rather all followers. Second, we have the word “are.” This is a verb, and it is written as a present tense fact. Jesus did not tell His followers that they could be, will be, might be. Instead, He told them, “you are.” The final word is “the.” This is considered singular. This passage would be vastly different if Jesus had said, “You are a light.” If He had indicated that His followers were a light, this would imply that there were a variety of other lights. Instead, He said that His followers are *the* light, indicating that there are no others.

As we learned in our Bible study this morning, Jesus provided a sign in that He healed one born blind. While doing this, Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.” We learn from the Sermon on the Mount that He has called us to be light in a dark world. He did not put stipulations on this calling outside of being His follower. The text also indicates that He does not have a plan “B” if we chose to ignore His calling.

Lifeway

2. The method: Be on display (v. 15).

Some of us like knowing what to do and what not to do. Having both pieces of information is helpful. Jesus graciously revealed this to us in verse 15. First, we are not to hide our light. If we are honest, we would confess that it is easy to find ourselves hiding our light in our dark world. It is easier to misquote a few numbers on the expense report, just like everyone else at the office. It is easier to use our notes on the online exam, just like our other classmates. Yet, Jesus clearly stated that we are not to hide our light.

Instead of hiding our light, He calls us to display our light and thereby add clarity in a dark setting. How much light does it take to provide sight in a dark setting? The answer is only a small amount. Fear can be a natural response when things are completely dark. Yet, if someone merely turns on their cell phone light, darkness dissipates, and fear will too.

How do we display our lights in the manner that Christ intended? An easy answer to this question is to articulate our faith in a simple and concise manner. Many get nervous when they think about sharing their faith. All that is required is to tell others how Jesus has changed us. If we know Jesus as our Lord and Savior, then we have had an encounter with Him; we have acknowledged our need for Him to save us. As we continually submit to His leadership, He has changed us from the inside out. Sharing the gospel can be as easy as sharing this story with others.

3. The result: God is glorified (v. 16).

We wired to want results. If we try a new recipe for a cake, we want to know if others like it. If we try a new procedure at work, we want to know if it cut expenses or raised sales. Being faithful to be the light we are called to be yields at least two results. First, others will see our good works. The phrase “good works” means things that are attractional. Being a light in a dark world will be attractional to others. They will want to know what is different about us, and this gives us the opportunity to share how Jesus has changed us.

The second result is that God gets the glory. As followers of Jesus, we understand that this life is all about God and not about us. Centuries ago, a group of Christians gathered to ponder the meaning of life. They determined that the chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. This became known as the Westminster Confession. Jesus clearly stated that we bring glory to the Father when our lives are on display for His glory.

Conclusion: As we conclude, we have two points of application. For those who know Jesus, we must be faithful to be the light Jesus called us to be. For those learning about Jesus, His calling is to submit to Him as Lord so that you too can be His light in a dark world. Let’s consider how He wants us to apply this text and find ourselves faithful to the call.

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