

# Let Your Light Shine

Matthew 5:14-16; Exodus 25:31-37

## Lampstands

Rev. 1:12-13, 20 *“I turned around to see the voice speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone “like a son of man” dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest....”*

*The mystery of the stars that you saw in my right hand and the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.”*

Exodus 25:31-37 describes the lampstands in the tabernacle.

-In the Old Testament the lampstands symbolized the people of God. Also the New Testament they symbolize the church, the Body of Christ.

-Number 7 is always symbolic of perfection, fullness or completion.

-The lampstands were a great ornamental piece within the tabernacle.

-The lampstands were beautifully crafted, and they were a great piece of workmanship.

- God desires to make something beautiful out of his people.

-The Scriptures teaches us that God is the Potter and we are the clay.

-He wants to make us vessels of honour to be used for His purpose and glory.

Eph. 2:10 *“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”*

- We are God’s workmanship, His masterpiece.

- Created in Christ for good works that he might be glorified.

What were the Lampstands made from? And how were the Lampstands built?

## 1. Made of Pure Gold

Exodus 25:31 *“Make a lampstand of **pure gold** and hammer it out, base and shaft; its flowerlike cups, buds and blossoms shall be of one piece with it.”*

-Gold is one of the most precious and valuable metals. Pure gold is refined where all the impurities are taken out.

-Pliny the Elder (60 B.C. the Roman historian) mentions in his writings that gold is the only metal unharmed by fire. In fact Pliny said each time it went through fire it came out better and more refined.

-Believers are refined people who have been made pure by Christ.

-Romans 4:3 *“Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”* What a beautiful truth! Abraham was not saved by good works; but rather, he believed God and was saved by Christ’s righteousness. Christ’s perfection was placed on Abraham. God viewed Abraham thereafter as having the righteousness of Christ, the purity of Christ. What a Saviour!

-We too, as believers in Christ have been made righteous and pure. Romans 4:23-25 we continue to read, *“The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom*

*God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.”*

-Christ’s righteousness, His perfection and purity is placed on those who believe and receive Him.

-These lampstands were made out of pure gold.

-The Church or believers are called to be pure, people of high standards and of integrity.

-God calls us to be a holy people; people of moral and spiritual integrity. People who truly respect and reverence God and demonstrate in their lives the character of God.

-Pure believers are people who are:

- loving
- compassionate
- merciful
- forgiving
- honest
- truthful
- kind
- good

## **2. Made Of One Piece**

*Exodus 25:31 “Make a lampstand of pure gold and hammer it out, base and shaft; its flowerlike cups, buds and blossoms shall be of **one piece** with it.”*

-The lampstand was to be made of one piece, not separate pieces but one whole piece. This speaks of unity and oneness.

-Unity: the state of being one, no division

-Harmony: agreement in feeling, action and ideas.

-In John 17:21 Jesus prayed that we would be one, *“That they all may be one as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that you have sent me.”*

-Psalm 133:1 *“How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity.”*

-Acts 4:31-32 *“And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness. All the believers were one in heart and mind...”*

-When believers are one in heart and mind the presence and power of God is very evident in their lives.

## **3. Filled With Oil**

*Ex. 27:20 “Command the Israelites to bring you **clear oil** of pressed olives for the light so that the lamps may be kept burning.”*

-The lamp cannot give light without oil.

-The Oil represents the Holy Spirit.

-We need to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

*Eph. 5:18 “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.”*

-Billy Graham said, *“The Church today has all the tools for conquest, money, organization, education and methodology. But today we lack the God-given spark to ignite these things into a spiritual fire that could sweep our society and community. That spark is the personal infilling of the Holy Spirit in the life of every believer, without which the church has no spiritual power.”*

Zech. 4:1-6 *“Then the angel who talked with me returned and wakened me, as a man is wakened from his sleep. He asked me, “What do you see?” I answered, “I see a solid gold lampstand with a bowl at the top and seven lights on it, with seven channels to the lights. Also there are two olive trees by it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left.”*

*I asked the angel who talked with me, “What are these my lord?” he answered, “Do you not know what these are?” “No my lord,” I replied. So he said to me, “This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the Lord Almighty.”*

-Believers depend on the power of the Holy Spirit. It is through the Holy Spirit that the church will be able to shine the light and do great things for God.

Story of John Hyde (missionary to Punjab, India). Hyde left New York for India in 1892 on a ship and something happened to him on that voyage that profoundly impacted his life and those in Punjab...

#### **4. Give Light Continually**

Ex. 27:20 *“Command the Israelites to bring you clear oil of pressed olives for the light so that the lamps may be **kept burning.**”*

-Matt. 5:14 *“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.”*

-Matt. 5:16 *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”*

-Where do you put a light? In a bright area? No, in a dark place.

-Jesus rarely argued or debated doctrine with the religious community of his time. One thing he often argued was how one lived. He talked more about the issues of the heart and how we ought to live than rules and doctrines.

-Paul - There are about 2 sermons recorded in the Bible that Paul preached. What speaks the most is how he lived his life. Our lives are an open book. What counts the most is how much light we are giving to the world around us.

*“The light that shines the furthest shines the brightest at home.”*

#### **Summary**

1. Made of Pure Gold - Refined, people of integrity
2. Made of One Piece - To be one, in harmony
3. Be filled with Oil – To be filled with the Holy Spirit
4. Give Light Continually - We are a light to the world

**Let Your Light Shine!**