

2 Increasing Your Capacity to Inspire Others! Living Life Sermon Series!

How You Can Be The Salt of the Earth and A Guiding Light to a Lost and Dying world!

Matthew 5:14-15

August 13, 2017

Last Sunday we looked at how Christians are to be **The Salt of The Earth!** This week Jesus tells that we are also **The Light of The World!**

The Differences between Salt and Light!

Salt

Hidden

Works Secretly

Works from Within

Indirect Influence

Works through Living

Largely Negative

Retards Corruption

Can't Change Corruption

Light

Obvious

Works Openly

Works from Without

Direct Influence

Works through Teaching

Mostly Positive

Reveals Corruption

Can Change Corruption

As **Unity** plays a critical role in being Influential within Your Circle of Influence, a **Positive Presence** plays an even bigger role in **Inspiring Others** within Your Circle of Influence!

The world is a **very dark place** and Christians tend to be various degrees of light. Jesus **Emanated**

Light! Christians on the other hand **Reflect** Jesus's Light! Jesus is like The **Sun** and we are like the **Moon!** **As the Moon cycles** through various degrees of phases giving off different amounts of light, so do Christians.

The Moon can only **reflect** a proportionate amount of light based on the amount of **Exposure** from the sun. Again the same is true with Christians. The more exposure you have with Jesus the brighter you will Shine!

You expose yourself to Jesus by:

- 1. Becoming a Believer and Following Jesus.**
- 2. Studying Jesus Life**
- 3. Studying His Commands**
- 4. Walking with Him Daily through Devotion and Prayer.**
- 5. Becoming Friends with another Christian.**
- 6. Finding and Accountability Partner.**

As a Witness for Jesus You Can Be An **Inspiration**

- I. Believers are an Inspiration to others by Being Vital to The Mission of Sharing The Gospel (14) "You are the light of the world.**

John 8:12 Again **Jesus spoke** to them, saying, "**I am the light of the world.** Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 9:5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

II. Believers are an Inspiration to others by Being Visible as they Go About Daily Sharing The Gospel (14) A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand,

Many Christians have been taught to keep their good works secret! But it is not your good works that should be kept secret.

Three Activities we do in Secret:

A. Your Giving: Matthew 6:4 so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Matthew 6:2-3 "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,

B. Your Personal Prayer Life: Matthew 6:6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

C. Your Fasting: Matthew 6:18 that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Be very careful about wanting **Recognition** for something **God wants secret**. You can lose your reward in heaven by receiving now on earth!

Believers are to **Personally** and **Visibly** Spread The Light.

III. **Believers are an Inspiration** to others by **Being Vibrant as they Go About Daily Sharing The Gospel (15)** and it **gives light to all in the house**.

A. **Sharing The Gospel** (14) and it **gives light**

Why do Christians **Not Share** the Gospel?

John Piper suggest 4 reasons we don't Share.

1. **Lack of Knowledge** of The Gospel!
2. **Apathy**. (Priorities)
3. **Fear**. Sharing Jesus Without Freaking Out Dr. Alvin Reid
4. **Lack of Compassion**

Dr. Piper also suggest **4 Steps** to Sharing More.

1. **Pray** together for the Lost.
2. **Recall** the Gospel together.
3. **Apply** The Gospel together.
4. **Prove** The Power of the Gospel.

B. **Sharing with Everyone** (14) and it gives light to **all** in the house.

We cannot pick and choose who we share the Gospel with.

We are to be like the Woman in **Proverbs 31:18** who **never let her lamp go out** at night. So there would always be light for those in the house who got up and for those outside the house to be able to find their way back home!

CONC: How Bright is your light?

Are you a **Full-Moon** Christian?

A **Fingernail-Moon** Christian?

A **New-Moon** Christian?

Or **No-Moon** at all? Unbeliever!

So far we have seen two of the **Three Principles** that we are to live our life by!

You are to be a **Positive Influence** on others as you **Live Life** on a Daily Basis!

You are to be a **Living Inspiration** to others as you **Live Life** on a Daily basis!

“Talk the Talk & Walk the Walk”

Next Week you will discover that You are to take the **Initiative** in how you **Live Life** before others on a Daily basis bringing Glory to Our Father in Heaven!

Praise Team Takes The Platform