



Sermon: You Light Up My Life, On Purpose (Parable of the Light)

Preached 12/19/21; Cloverdale Baptist Church

Matthew 5:14 – 16

¹⁴ Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

During the Christmas holidays one thing that is always pleasant for me to see are the lights. The history behind Christmas tree candles and lights were they represented Jesus as the Light of the world.

How do we know that Jesus is the Light? It is in the word. John 8:12, he said he was:

“Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”

John Chapter 1, describes Jesus as the Light.

- In him was life and the life was the light of men.
- The true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world

But we now look at this parable about the light. Remembering that a parable provides a natural example we can relate to that provides a spiritual revelation. Let's look at what light is and does.

Light – chases away darkness and allows you to see well. It illuminates and shines, provides guidance and reveals. You can see things that the darkness hides.

So now Jesus compares believers to a light that allows the world to shine or to be able to see in the midst of darkness.

- Wait, I thought Jesus was the Light but now he says we are the light.
- Can both statements be true, are we like Christ, the light of the world? Indeed.
- Ephesians 5:8 says, For ye were sometimes in darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light. 1 Thessalonians 5:5 says, Ye are all the children of light....

If we are the light of the world, where do we get this light? What is the source of the light that the world needs?

So where is this light? The light is Christ and he dwells within us. We radiate this light as we are a reflection of Jesus. We are the children of God and He is light and we are His children that He has lit up.

How do we obtain this light from God?

- Through His word. When we receive the word of God we receive His light.
- Psalm 119:105 – Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, a light unto my path.
- Of course, I believe it is a process:
 - Recognize your need for the light. Until you become uncomfortable in darkness and humbly come to God....you remain in the dark. The first step is always recognizing your need for God.
 - We must repent – turn from trusting in our own light, turn from self-centeredness and fear, etc., we must bury the word we receive in our hearts. We change our mind about doing things our way.
 - We must place our hope and trust in the risen Christ who lives in us. Our faith is now in the word we heard and that word which now lives inside of us....is Christ.
 - We must be led by the Holy Spirit and let Him guide us and teach us and show us how to use and apply the word for the glory of God. Remember the sword of the Spirit, is the word of God.
- Now after these four steps, we are ready to share the light and what the Spirit has revealed through us. Through this understanding, we share His grace and mercy through the word and our experience in the word (testimony) to show others the light.

The parable goes further in describing the strategic placement and purpose of this light.

Cities, reveal a tremendous amount of light and if set on a hill, you can see the city lights from a great distance. By comparison, when Christians are elevated their light cannot be hid and will be seen by others.

Jesus uses the example of a candle. People do not light a candle and then hide it. That defeats the purpose of lighting the candle in the first place. It doesn't make sense!!! The whole purpose and idea for lighting the candle is to allow others around to receive light and enjoy the benefits of the light produced from the candle.

So, look at what this parable is saying to us and about us spiritually:

- The example is that a person lights a candle on purpose. The purpose or intent for lighting the candle is so that the light can be used to shine for others to see...on purpose.
- Therefore, God must want to light us up...on purpose.
- One of the symbols of the Holy Spirit is fire or igniting inside us. The Spirit is a free gift that God gives us on purpose.
- God's purpose of lighting us is so we can be used and placed in a position (candlestick) where we can benefit others.....on purpose.
- God' plan for our lives, indeed our very purpose is to be a light to others....on purpose.

Jesus summarizes by telling us to let the light in us...our light, shine in such a way, that the world will see the good works we do and recognize that this power and light and revelation comes from God, and they would turn and follow the light of God. They would recognize God as the light and give Him glory.

Note: The sequence appears to be receiving the light, and letting that light guide you to do good works. Good works are things that glorify God. They are things that point others to His light so through your works, they see Him.

Question: Can you do good works in darkness without the light? Oh, yes you can, by doing it under the wrong power source. There are false lights. You need to be powered by the true light to really bring God the glory.

- **Process – we can't be a light until we receive His light.** Until we receive His light, we should not try to enlighten others; once we receive His light....we must enlighten others...on purpose.
- “The object of our shining is not that men may see how good we are, nor even see us at all, but that they may see grace in us and God in us, and cry, ‘What a Father these people must have.’ Spurgeon

Are Christians really needed still in the world today? The answer is yes because people are still walking in darkness without hope.

The purpose of light is to reveal. Therefore, it appears Jesus is saying part of the fundamental purpose of Christians is to share the light and understanding we have of Christ. This light will show men the way to eternal life.

Application – Jesus didn't redeem us to simply sit around or just to have church. We are saved to serve, and we will never truly be complete in our purpose and work in the Kingdom unless we are used in the lives of others.

Questions:

- How have you shared the light of Christ which he gave you, with others? In your home?
- Do you know how valuable you are to the Kingdom?

When you receive the true light, He will place you in a position, on purpose, so that others can see Him in you and be saved.