

8-24-25

“The Light of the World: Our Call to Shine”

Opening Prayer:

**Heavenly Father,
We come before You today with grateful hearts, ready to receive Your Word. Thank You for sending Jesus, the true Light of the World, to lead us out of darkness. As we open this message, we ask that Your Holy Spirit would illuminate our hearts and minds. Teach us what it means to reflect Your light in a world that so desperately needs it. Stir in us a passion to shine brightly for Your glory—at home, at work, and in every place You send us. May this message not only inspire us but transform us. In Jesus’ name we pray,
Amen.**

Text: Matthew 5:14–16 (NIV)



Opening Scripture –

Matthew 5:14-16 NIV

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. [15] Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. [16] In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."



Sermon Overview

This sermon centers around our identity and calling as **"the light of the world."** Just as Jesus gave His disciples the Great Commission, He also gave us a clear metaphor to live by—light in a dark world.

We'll explore three main truths from this passage:

1. The Identity of Light
2. The Responsibility of Light
3. The Purpose of Light



1. The Identity of Light – “You Are the Light of the World”



Explanation:

Jesus begins with an identity statement: “You are the light of the world.”

Notice He doesn't say "try to be light" or "you might become light"—He declares it. If we follow Jesus, this is who we are. Why? Because He is the true Light:

John 8:12 NIV

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

If Christ lives in us, His light shines through us.



Illustration:

Think of a lamp plugged into the wall. It only gives light because it's connected to the power source. In the same way, when we are connected to Jesus, we shine—not because of

our own brilliance, but because His power flows through us.



2. The Responsibility of Light – “A City on a Hill Cannot Be Hidden”



Explanation:

Jesus continues, “A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.” He’s saying that our faith is meant to be visible.

Just like light isn’t meant to be hidden under a bowl, our Christian life isn’t meant to be tucked away in silence.

Ephesians 5:8 NIV

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light



Application:

We live in a world filled with moral confusion, anxiety, division, and spiritual darkness. And in that world, your kindness, integrity, humility, and witness stand out. You don't have to be loud to shine—just be faithful.



Illustration:

A small child in a dark room holding a candle becomes the center of attention. No matter how tiny that flame is, darkness never overcomes light. One small act of faith can light up an entire home, school, or community.



3. The Purpose of Light – “That They May See and Glorify”



Explanation:

Jesus concludes with the reason we shine:

Matthew 5:16 NIV

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

This is not about glorifying ourselves. We shine so that others will see God's love, not our works.



Supporting Scripture:

1 Peter 2:9 NIV

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

God has placed you in specific places—at work, in your family, in your neighborhood—not by accident, but on purpose: to reflect His glory.



Illustration:

Imagine your house at night, with all the windows glowing with light. That glow lets your neighbors know: someone is home, and there is warmth and safety inside.

When people see the light in your life, it should invite them toward Jesus. You are not the house—they are seeing the light inside you: Christ.



Living as Light in a Dark World



How do we shine in everyday life?

1. By loving radically.

John 13:35 NIV

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

2. By walking in integrity.

Even when no one is looking, light doesn't lie. It tells the truth.

3. By speaking the truth in grace.

Colossians 4:6 NIV

Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

4. By serving faithfully.

Don't underestimate how much light shines through simple service—helping a neighbor, encouraging someone hurting, praying for the forgotten.



A Word of Encouragement:

Philippians 2:14-15 NIV

Do everything without grumbling or arguing, [15] so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky



Closing Challenge:

Are you hiding your light?

Have you grown discouraged, feeling like your light doesn't matter?

God says otherwise. You were created and commissioned to shine. You are the light of the world. Don't hide it—let it shine.

John 1:5 NIV

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.



Closing Prayer:

“Lord Jesus, thank You for calling us the light of the world. Help us not to hide but to shine boldly, humbly, and clearly in this dark world. Let every word we speak, every act we take, and every love we show reflect You. Empower us through Your Spirit to be the city on a hill that points others to Your glory. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”