



Let Your Light Shine (MATTHEW 5:13-16)
2019 Advent sermon series
By Pastor David Hillis, 12.22.19

BIG IDEA: God now calls us to be the light of the world, to brightly reflect His light so that in the darkness of the world around us, people will clearly see Jesus.

1. How can *I* be the light of the world?

- a. **When you accept Christ into your life, you are given a new purpose.** ([Matthew 5:14; John 1:4-5,14, 8:12, 9:2, 12:35-36](#))
- Your identity doesn't change. However, your *purpose* can.
 - When you *accept* that identity as His beloved child, and when you put your faith and trust in Christ as your light, You are given a new purpose in life — as a *light bearer*.
 - Jesus does not say you *should be* a light in the world, He says once you believe that you *become*, you *are*, a light.

2. How can *I* be the light of the world?

- a. **God's purpose for you can be wasted.** ([Matthew 5:15, 2 Corinthians 3:7-18](#))
- If you do not fulfill your God-given purpose and shine in the world around you, your light too is wasted.
 - We have a tendency as humans to *absorb* way more than we *reflect* God's light.
 - He wants us to reflect a lot of what He gives us *back out* into the world. He wants our lights to shine!

3. How can *I* be the light of the world?

- a. **When you do good deeds you fulfill that purpose, and people see Jesus.** ([Matthew 5:16, James 1:17](#))
- Jesus clarifies this light of Christ is reflected through our good works.
 - It is not our *own light* or goodness that people are seeing, but a *reflection* of God's light.

- iii. We have to choose to put ourselves in places every day where we are on a stand, where we *stand out* — not showing off ourselves, but rather selflessly reflecting God's light for others see see.

NEXT STEP: How are you serving as a light to your neighbor and community currently? Ask God openly how He might want that to change going into 2020.

FOR MY PERSONAL TIME WITH GOD THIS WEEK:

1. This week in our series *Light of the World*, we talked about how Christ called His followers to represent Him as the light of the world so that people would come to know Him. Reread [Matthew 5:13-16](#), perhaps in a few different translations such as the [CEV](#), [ERV](#) or [MSG](#).
2. There are a few places in the New Testament that talk about Christ or followers of Christ being the light of the world. Read them and see what more you learn about your role in Christ's Kingdom: [John 1:1-14, 8:12, 9:1-5, 12:34-36,44-50, Matthew 5:14-16, Ephesians 5:8-9, 1 Thessalonians 5:4-8](#).
3. In the Bible we see passages describing how, in the life of the believer, Christ's light shines from within them ([Matthew 5:14-16, 2 Corinthians 4:6-7](#)) and Christ's light is a reflection off of them ([2 Corinthians 3:7-18](#)). Study them in prayerful communication to God and see what you discover. For supplemental reading, check out The Gospel Coalition articles on how [we are the reflection of God](#) and how [Christ is the reflection of God](#).
4. Spend some time throughout this week speaking with God about how He has used you to be a light, how you are allowing Him to do so currently, and how He wants to do so in the future.
5. Are we good? Do we have the capacity to do good deeds on our own? Consider these questions as you read [Ecclesiastes 7:20, Isaiah 64:5-9, Psalm 14:1-3, Psalm 53:1-3, Romans 3:10-12 and James 1:16-18](#).
6. On Christmas Eve in our series *Light of the World*, we will take a closer look at what it means that the Light came into the world, and how that changed everything. To prepare for that message, read [Isaiah 9:1-7](#). Notice where light is mentioned, and what its significance is.

RESOURCES:

- Croatian family puts up record 5 million lights in the park they created: see [news article & YouTube video](#).
- When You Turn Off A Light, Where Does The Light Go? [Forbes](#) Magazine explains.
- Monastic community in Taizé, France, attracts over 100,000 young people a year to pray, work and seek direction: [Wikipedia article](#) & [Independent](#) article.
- China creating an artificial moon with "illumination satellites" that will be 8x brighter than the moon and replace electricity in Chengdu in 2020: articles at [phys.org](#) and in the & [South China Morning Post](#).
- ["Your Light"](#), a video Pastor Dave showed when he first came to Grace in 2011 and is a good reminder today.