

You Are Light; Matthew 5:14-16

I. Light and Dark

- A. The sun that produces light (and heat) for us is more than what it seems
 - 1. There is a certain vitamin (D) and our main source is the sun
 - 2. Food has only very small amounts of vitamin D, so there are only two sure ways to get the required amount — exposing your skin to the sun and taking a supplement
 - 3. The more skin you expose to the sun, the quicker your body produces Vitamin D
 - 4. It doesn't take very long (about half the time it takes to start to tan)
 - 5. The point being, the more often we are exposed to the light, the healthier we become
- B. "Light" — Light in contrast to darkness, that which gives or bears light ¹

II. On A Hill

- A. Matthew 5:14–15 (ESV); ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. 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, and it gives light to all in the house.
- B. Light dominates everything
 - 1. Light discipline in military combat is extremely important
 - 2. You can see the cherry from a cigarette at night from at least 100 yards away
 - 3. You can imagine that the glow from a flashlight can be seen much further away
- C. Light is meant to expose
 - 1. I often wake up in the middle of the night and half to feel my way to the kitchen for a glass of milk
 - 2. My cat's primary color is black so I have to worry about stepping on her
 - 3. But, if I turn on the light, everything is exposed for me to see, including the legos I might have stepped on
 - 4. We don't turn on lights to hide, but to see
- D. Jesus makes this statement in John 8:12 and 9:5
 - 1. John 8:12 (ESV); 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."
 - 2. John 9:5 (ESV); As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."
- E. We attribute light to righteousness — "walk in the light"

III. You Are Light

- A. In verse 14 Jesus attributes that same statement to us!
- B. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV); For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
- C. We have no righteousness of our own, we have become righteousness of God
- D. Jesus' righteousness was manifested in what He did
 - 1. He left heaven for earth — not as a king, but as a carpenter's son
 - 2. He ministered to mankind for 3 years — healing them physically and spiritually
 - 3. He sacrificed His life for the lives of mankind — by suffering a humiliating death on a cross
- E. In the same way, God's righteousness given to us should be manifested in our behavior
- F. Matthew 5:16 (ESV); In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.
- G. As salt and light, we preserve society by what we do — that has its roots in our Faith in Jesus
 - 1. We must pay careful attention to our actions — as light they are exposed to everyone around us
 - 2. As light, our actions are supposed to bring glory to God

¹ William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 1072.

3. This is what God desires of our lives (dedicated to Him)
 4. Ephesians 2:8–10 (ESV); ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
 5. This is the design for sharing the Gospel — giving Him the glory for all the good works we are (have been) doing
 6. 1 Peter 3:15 (ESV); but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,
 7. When people see the good we have done, and that we are honoring God with those good works, they are set up to ask us about our hope
 8. If we don't have any good works to honor God with, then how will people ask us about our hope?
 - H. “Believers who fail to arrest corruption become worthless as agents of change and redemption. Christianity (*the people*) may make its peace with the world and avoid persecution, but it is thereby rendered impotent to fulfill its divinely ordained role. It will thus ultimately be rejected even by those with whom it has sought compromise.” ²
 - I. As salt and light we model God's word providing preservation by His Word and righteousness by His actions (modeling self-sacrificing love)
- IV. Glory to God
- A. Our entire lives are dedicated to Him — holy, set apart for a divine purpose
 - B. All of our actions should be designed to give glory to God, to further His purpose and Kingdom
 - C. You are salt and light!

² Craig Blomberg, Matthew, vol. 22, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 102.