**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Bright Lights in a Dark World |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Matthew 5:14-16 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #1667 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Matthew 5:13-14
      1. We are the salt of the Earth and the light of the world.
   2. Both salt and light have to be applied.
      1. When salt is applied, it goes inward and disappears.
      2. Light comes from within and always appears.
      3. The salt speaks of character.
      4. The light speaks of testimony.
   3. The world needs both penetration and illumination.
      1. The world needs both character and confession.
   4. Matthew 5:14-16
   5. In today’s message, we will look at three simple words:
      1. Who
      2. What
      3. How
2. who: You (matthew 5:14)
   1. Matthew 5:14
      1. Jesus was giving the Sermon on the Mount.
         1. The mount was in northern Galilee, by the shore of Galilee.
      2. Jesus was speaking to the villagers and His disciples.
         1. They were fishermen and a motley crew.
         2. Jesus was not in Athens speaking to the intellectuals.
         3. He was not in Rome speaking to those with imperial and military might.
         4. The Galileans were the hillbillies of that day.
            1. It was to these people that Jesus said, “*You are the light of the world*.”
      3. Greek scholars tell us that the word “You” here is emphatic.
         1. It means, “You and nobody else.”
   2. How does God intend to get His work done in the world today?
      1. If Jesus Christ were to stand here today, then He could look us in the face and say, “*You are the light of the world*.”
         1. Many times, we do not understand this.
      2. Somehow, we have the idea that there are just a few people who are the light of the world or just a few people who are to preach the Gospel.
         1. But that is not so.
      3. God’s plan is to take ordinary people, just like us, and through us do extraordinary things.
   3. The world thinks that it lives in light; the world brags about being enlightened.
      1. 1 Corinthians 1:20
         1. Paul was saying, with a sense of sarcasm, “Where have all the statesmen, philosophers, scientists, and educators gotten us to?”
      2. With the technology of today, we can get into an automobile that is regulated by a computer and drive down a super highway while talking to someone with the use of a cell phone.
         1. When we get home, we walk into a house that has the climate controlled by air conditioning.
         2. We set in front of a television and can change the channels without ever having to get up.
         3. The news can happen across the ocean, and a television signal goes from the Earth to a satellite and comes out of that satellite into our living rooms, and we are in touch with the entire world.
            1. Yet, with all of this technology, we are in deeper difficulty that we have ever been.
      3. We call it an enlightened age, but we are sinking lower and lower.
      4. Everyone who comes along has a new idea.
      5. We have substituted intelligence for wisdom.
   4. Jesus said to common people, not to the statesmen or the philosophers but to the common people like us, that we are the light of the world.
      1. Matthew 11:25
      2. Do you know the wisdom of God?
         1. 1 Corinthians 1:21
            1. What is the foolishness of preaching?

We preach Christ crucified.

1 Corinthians 1:23

* + - 1. We have the light of the world through the cross.
      2. Through the cross, even a little child can know the heart of God.
         1. Is there any greater wisdom than to know the heart of God?
         2. Even a little child can understand the mysteries of life and death.
    1. The world doesn’t understand this.
       1. The world looks at us and says that we don’t count.
       2. The world puts emphasis upon beauty, brawn, brains, and bucks.
          1. Jesus puts the emphasis upon character.

“*You are the salt of the Earth*.”

Matthew 5:13

* + - * 1. Jesus puts the emphasis upon revelation.

“*You are the light of the world*.”

Matthew 5:14

* 1. Someone can study philosophy and learn that there are two ecologies that are in conflict with each other, but they cannot understand it through philosophy.
     1. The two ecologies are the higher ecology and the lower ecology.
        1. The higher ecology is God.
        2. The lower ecology is the power of Satan.
        3. These are in constant conflict with each other.
     2. The Bible teaches that the Son of God is Jesus Christ, who died for our sins.
        1. If we will repent of our sins and receive Christ into our hearts as our personal Savior, then Christ lives on the inside.
     3. 1 John 4:4
        1. We can overcome the lower ecology because the one who is the Lord of the higher ecology, Jesus Christ, lives in our hearts and gives us power day-by-day.
           1. We would not know this unless someone had taught us.

We cannot figure it out on our own.

We don’t have anything we haven’t received.

* 1. Through the study of science and the laws of the universe, someone can come to believe that there is a higher power.
     1. We can see how God works, but we cannot understand who God is until God reveals Himself to us.
        1. And God has revealed Himself to us in the Bible.
  2. God can take people like us, fill us with the Lord Jesus Christ, and give us His Word.
  3. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.
     1. His light shines in us.
     2. Then, His light shines through us.

1. what: you are the light of the world (matthew 5:14-15)
   1. You don’t light the light; you don’t salt the salt.
      1. We are to get outside of the walls of the church, and we are to be the light of the world.
   2. The foolishness of concealed light
      1. Matthew 5:14-15
         1. The “bushel” was like a bushel basket.
            1. It was something that you carried commodities in.
         2. The Lord was saying that you should not let business, possessions, and other things hide your light.
      2. When you were saved, you were saved to shine.
      3. Don’t hide your testimony.
         1. Are you ashamed to carry a Bible to work?
         2. Are you a student who doesn’t carry at least the New Testament?
         3. When you go out to lunch, do you bow your head and thank God for the food?
         4. Do people know that you are a Christian, or are you hiding your lamp under a bushel?
      4. What is a light for?
         1. A light is to shine.
   3. The faithfulness of courageous light
      1. Matthew 5:15
      2. We sometimes complain about how difficult it is to be a Christian in the workforce, but God put you where you are.
         1. In the book of Titus, Titus complained about the Cretians.
            1. Titus 1:12
            2. Titus was there because of the way these people were.

Titus 1:5

* + - 1. We are to shine as lights in a dark world.
         1. That is the reason why we are in the jobs we are in.
    1. Just let your light shine.
       1. It is not your light; it is Christ’s light anyway.
          1. He is the light of the world, and it is Him shining in you.
    2. What is most important in a house?
       1. The chandelier in the foyer or the single lightbulb that keeps you from falling on the basement steps?
          1. It is not the ornamentation.
          2. It is who you are; it is where you are.
    3. You are a light in a dark place.
       1. There is somebody whom you can influence for the Lord Jesus Christ.
  1. The forcefulness of collective light
     1. Matthew 5:14
        1. A city that is full of light is where men have lighted a light.
           1. They have not put it under a bushel but on a candlestick.
           2. This house and that house have a light.

The first thing you know, there is a glow across the sky because the city is an elevated place.

It is up on a hill.

* + - 1. The Lord was talking about the church collectively.
    1. Together we can glow for the Lord Jesus Christ and make an impact that we cannot make by ourselves.
       1. We shine brightest when we shine together.
    2. The church is the city of God.
       1. We are to be living in an elevated place.
  1. We are the light of the world.
     1. If we don’t shine, then who is going to?
     2. It is our privilege, duty, and responsibility to shine for the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. How are we going to do it? (matthew 5:16)
   1. There has to be surrender.
      1. Matthew 5:16
         1. Notice the word “let” in this verse.
      2. Let it happen.
         1. When you get right with God, when you are saved, and when you are filled with the Holy Spirit of God, then you don’t have to make yourself shine because you will shine.
         2. If you force it, then it will be a glare and not a glow.
         3. It is your willingness to cooperate with God.
      3. It has been said that when you get right with God, you will have to backslide to keep from winning souls to Jesus Christ.
         1. You are going to shine if you are full of the Lord Jesus Christ.
      4. The Bible tells us about Stephen, who was stoned for his testimony.
         1. The Bibles says that his face shone like the face of an angel.
            1. Acts 6:15
            2. He was full of Jesus.
      5. If Jesus is in you, He will stick out.
         1. The Christ in you will not be contained if you will just let Him be Jesus in you.
   2. There has to be sacrifice.
      1. Matthew 5:16
      2. There is no shining without burning.
         1. It was said of John the Baptist that he was a burning and a shining light.
            1. John 5:35
      3. On the day of Pentecost, there sat on every man’s head a flickering flame of fire.
         1. They were like human candles burning for the Lord.
         2. Acts 2:3
      4. Are you willing to be consumed for Christ?
   3. All of these speak primarily about sanctification.
      1. Matthew 5:16
         1. “That they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven.”
            1. That is sanctification.
            2. The life you live is Jesus in you.
      2. Galatians 2:20
         1. It’s not my life, but it is His life.
         2. It is not only a changed life but an exchanged life.
            1. People can see Jesus Christ in us.
2. CONCLUSION
   1. We are coming to the end of an age.
   2. There is more darkness today than there has ever been in history.
      1. We know more science.
      2. We have more abilities.
      3. We have more technology.
         1. But our world is lost in the darkness of sin.
   3. The world is in a perishing state.
      1. The world looks to science to save it.
         1. Science can tell you how far it is from the Earth to the sun, but it cannot tell you how to remove sin from your heart.
         2. It cannot save you.
      2. The world looks to philosophy to save it.
         1. Philosophy can tell you more and more about less and less until you know everything about very little, but it cannot save you.
      3. The world looks to education to save it.
         1. Education can make you smart, but it cannot make you wise.
         2. It cannot save you.
      4. The world looks to culture to save it.
         1. All culture can do is to make the world a better place to go to Hell from.
         2. It cannot save you.
   4. There is only one who can save, and His name is Jesus.
      1. Jesus is the light of the world.
   5. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   6. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16