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# **“This Little Light Of Mine”**

## **MATTHEW 5:14-16**

### **Introduction**

1. Do you remember the little children’s song, “This Little Light Of Mine?”
2. Perhaps you learned in Bible school when you were young?
3. It reinforces the words of Jesus which were just read to us a moment ago.

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4. This little children’s hymn, written by Harry Dixon Loes in 1920, sends a powerful message to those of us who are disciples of our Lord.

**This little light of mine  
I’m going to let it shine  
Oh, this little light of mine  
I’m going to let it shine  
This little light of mine  
I’m going to let it shine  
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine**

5. As you may remember, there are three other verses to this little hymn:
  - a. In the second verse, we promise to let our light shine all around the neighborhood.
  - b. In the third verse, we declare that we will not hide it under a bushel (basket), but let it shine.
  - c. In the final verse, promise that we will not let Satan blow (puff) it out.
    - ☐ No, we will do our best to let it shine all the time.
6. There is a story of a young boy who spent a summer traveling Europe with his parents:
  - a. As they went from city to city, they toured many of the historic cathedrals.
  - b. When he returned from his trip, his Sunday School teacher asked him what he remembered most from his vacation.

- c. He said the one aspect of his trip which he liked the most were the stained glass portraits of the disciples which he saw in the churches they visited.
  - d. He said those stained glass windows reminded him that a Christian is a person through whom the light of Christ shines.
7. What wisdom from the mouth of a child. That young man was right!
  8. Jesus calls those of us who are His followers, “the light of the world” (*Matthew 5:14*).
  9. Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, God has revealed to us the confidence He is placing in us and the importance of our mission in the world.
  10. This morning, I would like for you to consider three things with me:
    - a. The need for light in our world.
    - b. The source of that light.
    - c. God’s plan for us to be light.

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## **I. The Need For Light**

### **A. WE LIVE IN A WORLD OF DARKNESS**

1. In the Bible, we find God using the contrasting terms of light and darkness to describe our plight in this world.
2. In his account of Jesus’ life, the apostle Matthew lets us know that when Jesus began His ministry, He was fulfilling an Old Testament prophecy which God spoke through His prophet Isaiah (*Matthew 4:16*).

“The people who were sitting in darkness saw a great Light, and those who were sitting in the land and shadow of death, upon them a Light dawned.” (*Matthew 4:16, NASB95*)

3. There are two things he tells us about the people of Jesus day:
  - a. They “were sitting in darkness.”
  - b. They “were sitting in the land and shadow of death.”
4. Many years later, after, a man by the name of Paul, who was himself an

apostle of Jesus Christ, wrote to the Christians in the city of Colosse and said, “He [God] rescued us from the domain of darkness . . .” Colossians 1:13a, NASB95).

5. On another occasion, Paul referred to this “domain of darkness” as “the snare of the devil,” and said Satan holds people “captive” there, to do his will (2 Timothy 2:26).
6. Paul described the darkness of our present world with words such as immorality, sensuality, hatred, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, selfish ambition, envy, drunkenness (cf. Galatians 19-21).
7. These are things which we see regularly in our news feed.
8. This darkness is seen even in here our own community and is present in those of us who think ourselves to live very moral lives, but do not have Christ in them.
9. Our problem is the result of the absence of light and the ever increasing presence of darkness within us.

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### **B. JESUS BROUGHT LIGHT TO OUR DARK WORLD**

1. If you go back to the passage in Matthew 4:16, after telling us about the plight of the people of Jesus day — they “were sitting in darkness,” they “were sitting in the land and shadow of death” — there are two more things he equates with Jesus’ coming:
  - a. They “saw a great Light.”
  - b. “Upon them a Light dawned.”
2. In the prologue to his gospel, the apostle John records something for us which is very important to our lesson this morning (John 1:1-5).

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into

being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.” (John 1:1–5, NASB95)

- a. It is the nature of light to dispel darkness.
  - b. Here, John wrote, “The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend (overcome, overpower) it.”
3. When Jesus entered our world as a human being, He entered Satan’s domain.
  4. Though Satan and His subjects tried to frustrate Christ’s power, they were unable.
  5. Our Lord was victorious in spite of the opposition He faced.
  6. On one occasion, when Jesus was in Jerusalem for the Festival of Lights, He spoke these words concerning Himself, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the Light of life” (John 8:12, NASB95).
  7. On another occasion, when He was in Jerusalem during the last week of His life, just prior to His crucifixion, He said, “I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness.” (John 12:46, NASB95)
  8. Now that Jesus has ascended back to Heaven, where do people turn today to find light?
  9. They should be able to turn to those of us who are His disciples because His light now shines in us.

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## II. God’s Plan For Us To Be Light

### A. CITIES ON HILLS AND LAMPS IN HOUSES

1. “A city set on a hill cannot be hidden” (v. 14).
  - a. Many of the towns of Jesus’ day were set upon hills.
  - b. Their whitewashed walls glistened in the sun and could be seen for miles around.

2. “A lamp . . . gives light to all who are in the house” (v. 15).
  - a. The houses of Jesus’ day were generally dark.
  - b. A single doorway and a small window were common to such houses and permitted little light to reach the inside, even during the day.
  - c. The only source of light tended to be a simple lamp made from clay and filled with olive oil and a wick.
  - d. This lamp would be lit and placed on a table or lampstand in the center of the room in order to provide light for those inside.
  - e. The people listening to Jesus’ words could visualize a person lighting the lamp and putting it under a basket — in their minds, it was a foolish thing to do.
  - f. They knew the lamp would be unable to light the dark room because its light was hidden.

**Slide 6****B. “LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE”**

1. Our light isn’t meant to be hidden.
2. As disciples of Christ, we are to let Him shine forth through us for all to see.
3. Our good works are to be seen in such a way that God may be glorified.
4. Listen to what Paul had to say to the Christians in Philippi about God’s work in us (Philippians 2:12-16).

“So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or disputing; so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, holding fast [forth] the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.” (Philippians 2:12–16, NASB95)

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## 5. Consider for a moment some of the functions of light:

## a. Light dispels darkness.

- 1) As I said earlier, we live in a very dark world, but light has great power.
- 2) A single candle lit in a dark room provides much light.
- 3) A beam of sunlight shining through the clouds on a cloudy day brightens the day.
- 4) Consider how brightly a full moon shines on a clear night.
- 5) You and I are to dispel darkness wherever we go:
  - a) Through the things we do, our "good works" as Jesus called them, we dispel the darkness of people's circumstances by showing them that God cares about them.
  - b) Through the words we speak, whether they are words of salvation or words of encouragement, we dispel the darkness of Satan's lies and point people to Christ.
    - The light of our works and the light of our words must go hand in hand.

**7a**

## b. Light provides guidance and safety.

- 1) A lighthouse on a dark and stormy night keeps ships away from danger.
- 2) The runway lights at an airport help the pilots safely land the plane on which we may be flying.
- 3) The headlights on our automobiles help us stay alert for any obstacles or road hazards we need to avoid.
- 4) When our Lord, who is the true Light of the world, shines in us, we are able to guide others away from the certain destruction plotted for them by Satan.

**7b**

## c. Light attracts

- 1) Moths are attracted to light; they are drawn to it.
- 2) The light of Christ, in us, draws others to Him.

- 3) The apostle Paul instructed a young evangelist named Titus to teach those Christians who were servants in His day to be such good servants . . .
  - a) that they would “adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect” (Titus 2:10, NASB95).
  - b) “that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive” (NIV84).

## **Conclusion**

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1. Today, if you are a Christian, a follower of Christ, I would like to ask you this question: “Are you letting your light shine?”
  - a. Do your friends and neighbors, your fellow workers, your class mates see Christ living in you on a daily basis?
  - b. Or is it possible that Satan has already blown out your light?
2. If your light is shining, then my prayer is that . . .
  - a. Many souls will be brought to Christ because of His light in You.
  - b. You will continue to be “transformed into the same image [as our Lord] from glory to glory” (2 Corinthians 3:18).
3. If you are not a Christian today, please don’t allow Satan to keep you in his snare any longer.
4. Come to Christ in obedient faith today and allow God to rescue you from Satan’s “domain of darkness” and transfer you “to the kingdom of His beloved Son” (Colossians 1:13).