

# **You Are The Light Of The World**



***Neal Parker***

# Jesus' Comparison

- **Jesus, in Matthew 5:14-16, uses a metaphor to teach us something very important. He likens His disciples to light.**
- **If we are His disciples, Jesus is saying that we are the world's light.**
- **1 John 1:5 says that "God is light." / John 8:12; 9:5 Jesus says, "I am the light of the world." / This means that the disciples of Jesus are what God and Christ are: Light**



# Shine as Lights in the World

- **What does it mean, to be a light of the world?**
- **Philippians 2:15**
- **It is when we live a life characterized by righteousness that we shine like stars in the darkness of this world.**
- **You will appear as light in the world when you live a blameless life, a righteous life.**



# Shine as Lights in the World

- **What does it mean, to be a light of the world?**
- **Ephesians 5:1-10**
- **The disciple who lives in obedience to God is a spiritual light in a world of darkness. Their Christian character bears witness to Christ.**
- **When people see us, they will glorify God because they will recognize that it is by the grace of God that we are what we are.**



# The Light and The City

- **What does it mean, “a city built on a hill cannot be hidden”?**
- **Isaiah 2:2-3:**
  - The mountain of the Lord’s temple refers to the mount where the temple was built. And where was the temple built? On the summit of mount Moriah, in Jerusalem.
  - In this prophecy, Isaiah is saying that the time will come when Jerusalem will have the primary position in the world.
  - A great multitude of people will come to this mountain and the word of God will be made known from that place, i.e., from Zion, from Jerusalem.



# The Light and The City

- **What does it mean, “a city built on a hill cannot be hidden”?**
- **Psalm 121:1-8:**
  - **What hill is the psalmist talking about? The hill on which Jerusalem is built. ‘I will lift up my eyes to Jerusalem.’**
  - **He is looking at one particular hill among the hills. Hidden among the hills was the Holy City, Jerusalem.**
  - **Jerusalem was the location of the Temple of God.**
  - **Today, the church is the Israel of God (location of the Temple of God). As Paul says in Galatians 6:16, we are the Israel of God, the true people of God.**



# Mission for the Church

- **Isaiah says something significant in connection with being the light of the world.**
- **Isaiah 60:1-5,19-22:**
  - Jerusalem was to arise and shine for her light has come. Jesus says, 'You are the light of the world.'
  - **Isaiah 42:6**, 'I, the Lord, have given you to be a light to the Gentiles, i.e., to the world.'
  - Israel was given the high calling of shining as light in the world. The nation of Israel was chosen to serve. To serve as a light for God to the nations so that the whole world may know the truth of God. Today, the church has taken over the function of Israel in the world.



# Hidden In Order To Be Revealed

- Jesus says that no man lights a lamp and puts it under a basket.
- **Mark 4:21-22 / Luke 11:33:**
  - NIV Bible translation: *"For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed."*
  - **Luke 11:33.** *"No one, after lighting a lamp, puts it away in a cellar, nor under a peck-measure, but on the lampstand, in order that those who enter may see the light."*
  - The lamp is lit in order to give forth light. You don't put it under a bushel. And yet, it is hidden in order to be made manifest.





# Hidden Light To Be Revealed

- **Old Testament example of Gideon and the Trumpets / Torches under Jars.**
- **Judges 7:16-19:**
  - They initiated the battle by blowing their trumpets and smashing their jars, and the light that was inside the jars was made manifest. This created a great confusion in the Midianite camp, that caused the Midianites to turn on each other with their swords.
  - Light hidden in order to be revealed.



# Breaking the Old Nature

- Light hidden in order to be revealed.
- **Psalm 18:28:**
  - *"For You will light my lamp; The Lord my God illumines my darkness."*
  - **Proverbs 20:27** – *"The spirit of a man is the lamp of the Lord, searching all the inner depths of his heart."*
  - God lights us up. Gideon's men had to smash their jars so that the light could come out.
  - In the same way, this outer earthen "jar", that old self; our old selfish nature, has to be smashed, broken, before the light can come out.



# ***You are the Light of the World***

## ■ **Application To Life:**

**We are given a mission, as a disciple of Jesus Christ; Be the Light of the World.**

**When our old nature is broken, the light of God will come out of us and illuminate the darkness of our world.**

