



# Shine

Matthew 5:14-16

Week of October 24, 2021

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Before Connect Group

- Read Matthew 5:14-16
- Watch the sermon by going to <http://switzerlandcommunitychurch.org>

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*You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 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. 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.*

*Matthew 5:14-16, ESV*

# Sermon Notes

*You Are Called to Shine!*

*Isaiah 60:1-3 Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you,*

*John 1:4-5 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

As the Director of Student Ministry, the goal of SCC students is to help students take their next steps in faith by calling them to shine. When they step into their schools, when they are spending time with their family, that they are shining for Jesus. In that, we will see a work of God done in our community. Not for our church but for the glory of God.

For some of us, we are taking our first steps and learning to shine the light of Jesus as we take our first steps. For others of us who have been Christians for a longer time, we can be a beacon of light even still for the Gospel.

The first thing Jesus says is "You are the light of the world"

## **If the Bible says Jesus is light, then how are we the light of the world?**

- *1 John 1:5-8 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*
- **ANSWER:** "God is light" "if we have fellowship with him we walk in light"
- Jesus wants 2 things. He ultimately wants them to know who He is and who He is calling them to be.
- **CONFLICT:** That there are those that say they have fellowship with Christ that say they walk in the light but instead they walk in darkness
- This is one of the greatest enemies the church of Jesus Christ faces today
- That instead of making disciples the church indoctrinates and builds this false sense of security
- We have allowed attenders in church to have a false sense of security. That we believe the lie that proximity equals intimacy.
- We will one day be judged not by what we have done but by what Christ has done for us on the cross.

## **How Do We Know For Sure That We Are In The Light and Not in Darkness?**

- *Ephesians 2:1-3 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the*

passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

- **ANSWER:** We as Christians have to have the right perspective on the work that God has done in our lives.
- *Colossians 2:13* And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,
- *Matthew 5:14* A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 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.

## What Would Cause Believers to Hide Their Light

- *Genesis 1:3* "Let there be light"
- *Genesis 3:8* "they hid themselves from the presence of God"
- God asked Adam and Eve to refrain from eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Yet, Adam and Eve sinned and hid from God.
- **Answer:** To the believer, sin brings shame.
- We cannot shine our light when we are covered in the shade of sin.

## How Do We Shine Our Light When We Are Covered in Sin and Shame?

- *Ephesians 5:8, 11-14* "Walk as Children of the Light!... Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when the light exposes anything, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."
- Many times we fear that people who see us for who we really are, they will never want to do with us or judge us harshly.
- Sometimes the greatest sin of the mature Christian is to stay silent instead of to speak up, instead of looking to encourage one another to grow in our faith.
- **ANSWER:** We can't, Eph 5 tells us to expose darkness with light
- *Matthew 5:16* 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.

## How Do We Shine Our Light In A Way That Brings Glory to God?

- *Matthew 5:2-4, 6* "Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you...Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven."
- **ANSWER** We shine our light in a way that people see Jesus and not us!
- It is only through the work of Jesus that we can be transformed and see our world changed by His glory for His glory.
- It is important for us to put ourselves in the position of someone who is lost and trapped in darkness
- Shine but don't blind!

# Connect Group Discussion Questions

- What does it mean to shine our light? Where do we get the source of our light from?
- How do we know if we are truly shining our light? What does this look like in our cultural context?
- What fears do we face for not shining our light in our home, in our community, and in our world? Why do we continue to allow these fears to rule over our witness to the Gospel?
- How does sin impact our ability to shine to the world around us? Does this matter if the sin is hidden or visible? What effect does sin have on our personal walk with Christ?
- Why does shining our light reveal what we believe about the nature and person of Jesus Christ?

## Challenge For The Week

Shining our light involves living out our faith in our community so that the world may know that Jesus Christ is King and to give Him glory in all the world. One of the greatest hindrances to shining our light comes from ongoing sin in our lives.

- Where do you struggle with sin in your life? How are you actively working to battle the sin in your life? Talk or find your discipleship partner about the sin in your life.
- Who do you know that you can shine your light (without blinding them) so that they might know the glory of God? Pray for them and look for opportunities to share your faith with them this week.

