

The Light of the World Part 3

House Church discussion : 30 August 2009

Mathew 5 : 14-16

Context is the "sermon on the mount". The light of the world are those who are poor in spirit, who mourn, who are meek, hunger and thirst for righteousness, etc. Only way to possess such qualities is to be in Christ / be his disciples.

Key point : We who are in Christ carry his mission into the world today - we are the light of the world !

Can you remember what light is associated with in the Bible ?

- The radiant presence of God
- Righteousness as opposed to the darkness of sin
- Hope as opposed to hopelessness
- Wisdom or knowledge of the truth (as in being "enlightened" ...)

Key point : The "You" in vs 14 is a collective "you". Collectively, the people of God are called to be the light of the world. This is the corporate impact of the whole community / church. Not a variety of little candles shining, but the collective light of the whole community that draws the attention of the watching world. The hilltop town in vs 14 is a symbol of a whole community as opposed to an individual.

What are some qualities of light ?

Allows things to be seen - where there is light everything is clear and people find their way, it brings warmth, can be absorbed and reflected, very visible (imagine a single torch in a dark cave), contains energy, adds colour, essential for life, etc ...

Can you see how these qualities in us reflect God's presence and glory and would help to bring people to Him ?

When does light appear the brightest ?

In the darkness ! As light-bearers we need to be in places of darkness to be noticed and to make a difference.

Read **Mathew 9 : 10 -12.**

Key point : We need to hang out with people who do not know God in order to influence them.

Verse 16 : The “light” shed by disciples is interpreted as the good that they do.

See also **1 Peter 2 : 11 – 12**.

Key point : The reason we do good deeds is to get people outside of God’s community to glorify Him – not to get them to imitate our actions but to see God at work in us, and thereby to direct their focus and praise towards Him.

John 1 : 6-9 and **John 5 : 31 - 36**

Example of John the Baptist who people thought was the light / the promised Messiah. But he used his light (the example of his righteous life) to point people to Jesus. He reflected the coming light of Jesus – he came as a witness to the light.

Key point : We too can be witnesses to the light, by reflecting the light of Jesus within us, to the world.

How can we be witnesses to Jesus ? How should we behave towards each other and towards non-disciples ?

What should our main motivation be ?

Ephesians 5 : 8 - 14

Key point : We need to live as children of light and in so doing we will expose the deeds of darkness / sin in the world.