



In **Matthew 5:14-16**, Jesus made so many of the principles we’ve talked about throughout this series very personal for his disciples:

“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.”

The Impact of Following Jesus

Near the beginning of this study, we heard Jesus say, “I am the light of the world” (**John 8:12**). But that wasn’t where his statement ended. Notice: “Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” It’s a tremendous blessing to have been shown and shaped by the “light of life”! But hear and meditate on Jesus’ words in **Matthew 5**. His intention as “the light of the world” is not to share “the light of life” with us and have it stop there. He is calling us—those who have been shown “the light of life”—to now serve as “the light of the world.”

- ☼ When you hear that phrase—“the light of the world”—what comes to your mind?
- ☼ Why would Jesus illustrate that statement with, “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 is Jesus teaching us? Warning us about? Encouraging us to do?
- ☼ “Let your light shine before others...” What is “my” light? Does all of this *really* matter?
- ☼ Let’s think through Jesus’ teaching for a moment on a practical level. What’s the difference between letting my light shine before others “so that they may see” my good works and “showing off” or drawing attention to myself in an inappropriate way?
- ☼ What’s the ultimate, God-defined goal of this shining? “So that they may ... give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” In everyday terms, what does this mean? How does this happen? Why is it well-pleasing to our heavenly Father?

