

Jesus has called us to be the ultimate influence in the world

The Sermon on the Mount is Jesus' description of true discipleship and His expectations of His church which will soon be in existence.

Everything Jesus taught is anchored in understanding two metaphors taught in the Sermon on the Mount:

1. "You are the salt of the Earth." - What Jesus has called us to be.
2. "You are the light of the world." - What Jesus wants us to do.

Being the light of the world has everything to do with our influence in the world. This is why Jesus follows up this statement with the command "Let your light shine before men..." This applies to all aspects of life. When things are confusing and difficult, "let your light shine before men." When you face problems and difficulties, "let your light shine before men." When someone needs to see the gospel lived out, "let your light shine before men." That's the command from Jesus. Always let your light shine before men.

Jesus wants us to let our light shine wherever God places us. Jesus' expectation of us is to shine as a light everywhere we go because people will be attracted to the light in us. If we allow God to work in our lives, to shine where He places us, we will shine, not because we are good, but because Christ will shine through us. We may have the same problems, the same difficulties, but the joy of the Lord, the strength of the Lord, will shine through us. The lamp shines best when the darkness is darkest. Let your light shine.

The purpose of physical light is to allow one to see what is around or to direct one on a safe passage. The spiritual light is intended to light the world. A hidden light is a useless light. Our light cannot be directed into the corners to be dimmed or hidden, but it must be displayed for the entire world to see.

In the physical world, light conquers darkness. In the spiritual world, Christians eliminate the darkness of sin. As we reflect the light of Christ, we change the world from the total darkness of sin to one of hope and compassion through our good works. Our benevolent acts toward others, compassion for others, and the love we show toward the lost all reflect Christ and His love and compassion for the lost. Our light shines upon the world through our actions. Without God's children, there is no light in the world and sin prevails.

Christians are called to be distinctly different than the world. Jesus told those listening to His Sermon on the Mount that they were to be the salt and light of the world. Long sermon short, Jesus is still challenging His people to influence the world and not let the world influence us. Let your light shine regardless of circumstances.