Get Your Shine On

(Matthew 5:14-16 KJV)

“*Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven*.”

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n the text Jesus is on the mountain teaching the beatitudes. These beatitudes tells us of those who are poor, those who are hungry, those who weep, those who hearts are pure, those who work to establish peace, and those who suffer for the cause of justice. These individuals are all classified as blessed in the kingdom of God.

Then the Sermon on the Mount speaks of the response of those who are blessed. What is our responsibility? It tells us: “*You are the salt of the earth; you are the light of the world.”* All who are blessed are called to a responsibility. This responsibility requires Christian discipleship, and membership in the kingdom of God.

When it comes to Jesus using the light as a metaphor, we must know the significance of it. Is there a difference between lighting a match, and lighting a candle? Is there a difference between a candle and a lamp? The significance of a match, a candle, and a lamp is most important; they all give off light, but they all require someone to care for them. We don’t make much use of candles and lamps. We would rather use a light bulb, you turn it on and it keeps going until it blows out and needs a replacement. But even the light bulb has someone to care for it.

Again, let it be known that light cannot be produced unless there’s a power company involved. But the power company cannot be operational, unless there are some employees to maintain the generators which produce the electricity. In order for our lights to be proactive; we must be hooked up to the right power source.

Light is a very common metaphor in the Bible. Along with darkness, light is often used to contrast knowledge and ignorance. Here it almost certainly stands for the world’s opportunity to perceive the truth about Jesus. The world is, “in the dark” about God, but Christians “turn on the lights.” Light allows people to see. Christians allow the world to understand how much God loves them and what Jesus has done to restore their relationship with him.