

**LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE
KINGDOM LIVING SERIES
A STUDY OF THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT**

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TEXT: Matthew 5:14 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; ¹⁵ nor does *anyone* light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

INTRO: We are starting a new series called “Kingdom Living: A Study of the Sermon on the Mount,” Matthew 5 to 7.

There is no way that we can cover all the deep truths in these life-changing passages during the summer months, but we want to be led by the Holy Spirit to pick the salient passages that the Lord would want us to expound over the next number of weeks.

Gandhi, a Hindu, declared this to be the greatest sermon given in the history of humanity.

Oswald Chambers: “If Jesus is a teacher only, then all He can do is to tantalize us by erecting a standard we cannot come anywhere near. But if by being born again from above we know Him first as Savior, we know that He did not come to teach us only. He came to make us what He teaches we should be. The Sermon on the Mount is a statement of the life we will live when the Holy Spirit is having His way with us.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer: “Humanly speaking, it is possible to understand the Sermon on the Mount in a thousand different ways. But Jesus knows only one possibility: simple surrender and obedience — not interpreting or applying it, but doing and obeying it. That is the only way to hear his words. He does not mean for us to discuss it as an ideal. He really means for us to get on with it.”

The Bible has a lot to say about being the light of the world. For example:

1. God is the light of the world (Psalm 27:1).
2. God’s light is for the nations to come to the light (Isaiah 60:3).
3. **Isaiah 49:6 “I will also make you a light of the nations so that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”**
4. God’s light is heaven on earth. When you experience heaven on earth, it becomes a tremendous beacon of light to the world.

One of the main examples of Israel being the light of the world, where nations came to Israel, was during the reign of King Solomon.

1 Kings 10:23 “So King Solomon became greater than all the kings of the earth in riches and in wisdom. ²⁴ All the earth was seeking the presence of Solomon, to hear his wisdom which God had put in his heart.”

I want to take five truths from Solomon’s Kingdom on how we, too, can be the Light of the World.

I. FIVE WAYS OF LETTING OUR LIGHT SHINE

A. LET THE LIGHT OF GOD SHINE THROUGH THE PRESENCE OF HOLY SPIRIT IN YOU

1. Solomon’s amazing reign that would influence the nations begins with the dedication of the Temple and God’s presence came down.
2 Chronicles 5:13 “...and when they praised the Lord saying, ‘He indeed is good for His lovingkindness is everlasting,’ then the house, the house of the Lord, was filled with a cloud, ¹⁴ so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God.” (NLT)
2. Colossians 1:27 “...Christ in you, the hope of glory”
3. Ephesians 5:18 “Do not be drunk but be continually filled with the Holy Spirit”
4. The presence of God is heaven to earth (Romans 14:17).
5. Inviting God’s presence into the workplace (Toms River Bank).

B. LET GOD’S LIGHT SHINE THROUGH THE WISDOM OF JESUS

1. **1 Kings 10:24 “All the earth was seeking the presence of Solomon, to hear his wisdom which God had put in his heart.”**

2. 2 Chronicles 9:5 “She exclaimed to the king, ‘Everything I heard in my country about your achievements and wisdom is true! ⁶ I didn’t believe what was said until I arrived here and saw it with my own eyes. In fact, I had not heard the half of your great wisdom! It is far beyond what I was told. ⁷ How happy your people must be! What a privilege for your officials to stand here day after day, listening to your wisdom!’” (NLT)

3. Proverbs 9:10 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”

4. Wisdom begins with acknowledging and reverencing God, and aligning our hearts under His loving Lordship. The first button!

5. “Wisdom is knowing God’s Word, listening to God’s Word and obeying God’s Word.” - Ché Ahn

6. Listening is so vital because God is speaking to us all the time (John 10:27). Solomon didn’t ask for wisdom but a hearing heart.

7. You know something you did was wise because of the fruit.

8. Luke 7:35 “Wisdom is vindicated by all her children.”

9. Christ Jesus is our wisdom. The more you know Him and His Word and His ways, you become wise.

10. Isaiah 2:2 “Now it will come about that In the last days The mountain of the house of the Lord Will be established as the chief of the mountains, And will be raised above the hills; And *all the nations will stream to it.* ³ And many peoples will come and say, ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, To the house of the God of Jacob; That He may teach us concerning His ways And that we may walk in His paths.’ For the law will go forth from Zion And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.”

11. Be people of God’s Word.

C. LET THE LIGHT OF GOD SHINE THROUGH EXCELLENCE

1. 2 Chronicles 9:3-4 “When the queen of Sheba realized how wise Solomon was, and when she saw the palace he had built, she was overwhelmed. She was also amazed at the food on his tables, the organization of his officials and their splendid clothing, the cup-bearers and their robes, and the burnt offerings Solomon made at the Temple of the Lord.” (NLT)

2. Atouzo and Yvonne Nehulé, their hair salon.

3. 1Nation1Day, 1Day1LA, June 25, 2020.

4. Excellence is evangelism.

D. LET THE LIGHT OF GOD SHINE THROUGH JUSTICE — DOING WHAT IS RIGHT

1. **2 Chronicles 9:8** “Blessed be the Lord your God who delighted in you, setting you on His throne as king for the Lord your God; because your God loved Israel establishing them forever, therefore He made you king over them, to do justice and righteousness.”
2. **We are kings and priests (Revelation 1:6 and 1 Peter 2:9).**
3. **We are to do justice and righteousness.**
4. **Sam Caster of Evolve Health.**

E. LET THE LIGHT OF GOD SHINE THROUGH GENEROSITY

1. **2 Chronicles 9:12** “King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba whatever she asked for—gifts of greater value than the gifts she had given him. Then she and all her attendants returned to their own land.”
2. **Luke 16:9** “Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home.” (NLT)
3. Robert Morris in his *The Blessed Life* book shares the story of leaving a \$100 tip to a waitress just for having coffee. She ends up giving her life to Jesus and becomes one of his first church members at Gateway Church.
4. **We are having a picnic and we want you to invite your friends — and lunch is on us!**

CONCLUSION: Jesus Himself, as the gospel story goes on to its dramatic conclusion, lives out the same message of the Sermon on the Mount: He is the light of the world, He is the salt of the earth, He loves His enemies and gives His life for them, He is lifted up on a hill so that the world can see.