

SALT + LIGHT



# NOTES

## *for today's message*

**MATHEW 5:14-16** "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 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. 16 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.

- When Jesus says, "You are the light of the world," what he means is, "I am the True Light, and through you, I will light up the world."
- As followers of Jesus we have been given influence to reflect Jesus to others.
- For most people, all they will ever know about Jesus is what they see in us—that is our influence; our responsibility.

Questions the follower of Jesus must ask:

1. Am I shining?
2. What is my light saying about who Jesus is?
3. Is my light drawing people to Jesus or pushing them away?

**JOHN 8:12** "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

- The Church is meant to be the light of the world
- Imagine what the Church would be capable of doing if it looked like what Jesus said it could be.

2 Examples of Light:

1. City on a Hill

**MATHEW 5:14** "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden."

- You might not notice it during the day but at night you couldn't hide it.

2. Lamp

**MATHEW 5:14-15** "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 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.

## 2 Ways We Hide Our Light:

**MATHEW 5:14-16** "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 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. 16 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.

### 1. Inconsistent Living

**PHILIPPIANS 2:14-15** Do all things without grumbling or disputing, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.

- Live without complaining and arguing...that you may be blameless for putting out the light.

### 2. Indifference Toward Lost People

**MATTHEW 22:36-40** Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

- Love people as yourself

**MATTHEW 5:43-45** "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven."

- If we are going to be followers of Jesus, we have to learn to love people, including those who we believe to be our enemies.
- Nothing will hide our light faster than a gossiping, mean spirit.

How are we called to shine our light?

**MATTHEW 5:16** 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.

### 1. Shine here



## 2. SHINE THERE

## 3. SHINE EVERYWHERE

**2 CORINTHIANS 3:18** And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

**ALEXANDER PAPADEROUS** - I am a fragment of a mirror whose whole design and shape I do not know. Nevertheless, with what I have I can reflect light into the dark places of this world—into the black places in the hearts of men—and change some things in some people. Perhaps others may see and do likewise. This is what I am about. This is the meaning of my life.

Ridge Church



# STUDY GUIDE

*questions for later*

## Discussion:

1. What's one idea from the message that really stood out to you? Why did this idea grab your attention?
2. Reality check: Jesus didn't say, "Would you mind being my light?" He said, "You are my light. You are the light of the world." Therefore, as a follower of Jesus you must answer the following questions:
  - Am I shining?
  - What is my light saying about who Jesus is?
  - Is my light drawing people to Jesus or pushing them away?
3. Read Matthew 5:14-16. Matthew gives us two metaphors for how we can be light. Give some examples of ways to be light to our community as:
  - An Individual
  - A Community Group
  - North Ridge Church

## Action Steps:

- **HEART** - discover and deepen your relationship with Jesus through the daily devotional or a daily scripture reading plan. Invite three people of your same gender to commit to meeting together weekly for a year to discover and deepen your relationships with Jesus together.
- **HARD TO REACH** - identify someone this week who is far from Jesus. Find ways to hear their story and begin building a relationship with them.
- **HOME** - spend time with your family discussing ways to grow in devotion to Jesus so that His value in our life is easily and naturally seen by others.
- **HURTING** - identify someone who is hungry, sick, anxious, lonely, or has some other need. Find ways to meet that need.