

EVANGELISM AND LIGHT

(Matt. 5:14-16)

Introduction:

1. Do we want the kingdom to grow? Before you answer consider the words of our Lord in Matt. 15:8. Are we giving lip service to God with regards to evangelism? Is our heart really in it?
2. Familiar passages like as was read hold the key to our evangelistic success. But familiar passages can be ignored as simple, and not delved deep for the treasure they contain.
3. Let us consider the keys to evangelistic success Jesus laid out in Matt. 5:14-16: we must light the light, shine the light, and spread the light.

Discussion:

I. Light the Light.

- A. In verse 15, a simple physical truth is mentioned, “Nor do they light a lamp”.
 1. The simple truth is that a light must be lit!
 2. Light must be actively kindled whether we are talking about the sun, the moon, a torch, a campfire, or an electrical light.
- B. For Christians, we light our light via THE Light (John 1:4, 9).
 1. We encounter Jesus in some way and we pursue Him (2 Pet. 1:19).
 2. We study all that we can about Him in our striving to conform to His image (Rom. 8:29; Luke 9:23).
 3. The more we study and the more we strive = the more light we are (Rom. 12:1, 2).
- C. In other words, our evangelism is dependant upon our learning the Word (Rom. 10:17; 2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Pet. 1:2-11). We cannot convince someone of what we do not know or offer to someone what we do not possess.

II. Shine the Light.

- A. We must continue to be light and must shine in this world of darkness (vv 14-16).
- B. Our purpose is to be noticed and to attract attention (Acts 13:47).
- C. To do this we must put on the “armor of light” (Rom. 13:12).
 1. VV 1-7 = right relationship with civil authorities.
 2. VV 8-14 = right relationship (as light) with all; especially vv 10-14.
- D. To do this we must maintain our transformation (Rom. 12:2) and keep putting on the new man and keep putting away the old man (Eph. 4; Col. 3; but especially Eph. 5:8ff).
- E. In other words, our evangelism is dependant on us learning the word and then faithfully living the word (1 John 1:7-10; 1 Thess. 4:3-12). We cannot convert people with hypocrisy, nor can we encourage faithfulness when we lack that very thing.

III. Spread the Light.

- A. We must strive to light other lights in the darkness (v16).
 1. We are called to proclaim light to the world (Acts 26:16-23).
 2. We are called to lead people to the light (Rom. 2:19; 2 Cor. 4:1-7; 5:18-6:1).
- B. To do this we must ACTIVELY seek to expose people around us to THE Light (Luke 16:8).
- C. In other words, our evangelism is dependant on us learning the word, living the word, and striving/scheming to lead others to the word (1 Pet 3:15 must be followed with 1 Cor. 9:19-23).

Conclusion:

1. A word of advice: evangelism is commanded not suggested. If we would obey this command we MUST learn God’s word, live God’s word, and actively seek to lead others to God’s word.
2. A word of caution: fulfillment of God’s command to evangelize does not equal visible success. Most have not and will not accept God’s word; they will choose to remain in the darkness. That does not mean we ever stop learning, living and leading people to God’s word. It means we are prepared for a potential lack of success. But brethren, be hopeful in prayer for opportunity and success!
3. Invitation.

MORE ON “EVANGELISM AND LIGHT”

1. Let us look more closely at some of the passages we touched on earlier:
 - A. Matt. 5:1-16 = let us consider the context of our being commanded to be light.
 1. Notice first and foremost that we are not commanded to be light, we are told that we ARE light. We are commanded to let our light shine. This is an important distinction in our thinking. Christianity is not something we can “do”. Not something we can turn on and turn off. It must be who we are (by way of complete surrender to God and His will as revealed in the Bible). Christianity is not our software but our operating system.
 2. Notice the means of becoming light (5:1-13) = coming to Jesus, being taught by Him, becoming like Him, and being noticeably different than the world.
 - B. 2 Pet. 1:19 = let us consider Peter’s advice (take heed to scripture) in context.
 1. It begins with obtaining “like precious faith” (v1) and building that faith up via knowledge (vv 2, 3, 4, 12-19).
 2. It naturally produces a step-by-step transformation (vv 5-7).
 3. It is predicated upon our hope in Jesus (vv 4, 8, 10, 11, 16-19).
 - C. Eph. 5:8 = let us consider the context of Paul’s charge for Christians to walk as children of light.
 1. As children we are to love, learn, and live like our Heavenly Father (vv 1-7).
 2. As children of God we are to be more than saved; we must serve (separating ourselves from the darkness of the world [vv 3-7, 10-17]).
 3. What follows is the natural fruit of the transformation (vv 18-6:9).
2. Evangelism is commanded (Matt. 5:13-16; Luke 9:23), thus to disobey is to sin (1 John 3:4; Matt. 7:21-23); and to live in sin is death (Rom. 6:23a).
3. Thus we MUST be about evangelism = learning the word, living the word, and leading others to the word. That is to be our life, and that is our LIFE!

**WE ARE SAVED TO
SERVE, NOT TO SIT!!**