

SHINE BRIGHT Like a DIAMOND

S E R M O N G U I D E

No Limits with Pastor Delman

Shine Bright Like A Diamond

Matthew 5:14-16

INTRODUCTION

Light is the first entity that God created. This suggests that the darkness we are in should not cause us to feel resigned to futility; it should not cause us to throw up our hands in surrender. For when things are at their darkest, God is just starting to move. When things are at their worst, God is just beginning to turn things around. We can trust that there is something on the other side of darkness, and what's on the other side is going to be better, brighter, and bigger than what existed before.

KEY POINTS

1. Light Reveals What God Desires

It is our duty and our responsibility to be seen revealing the darkness in the world. We should not be ashamed of who we are, embarrassed about whose we are, or unclear on where we are going.

Jesus said in Matthew 10:33, "*If you are ashamed to own me before men, I will be ashamed to own you before my Father...*" To be clear, we are seen because we are trying to be seen. We are not trying to intentionally draw attention to ourselves for selfish, egotistical reasons. Notice Jesus says, "LET your light shine." He does not say, "Shine your light" or "Flash your light." When you shine your light, you're pointing it where you want, you turn it on and off when you want, and you determine the degree and brightness of the light. Our call is not to shine our light, but to "let" your light shine so that we can others to the light of Christ.

2. Light Reflects What God Has Done

When Jesus says, *"You are the light of the world,"* He's talking about you shining the light that reflects off of you. You're a diamond because you started as filthy rags, and you have gone through great challenges in order to get here. You have been under intense heat and have endured great pressure. And with everything you've been through, God has produced a diamond. NOTES

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Every challenge you've been through has helped you grow. Every storm you have endured has helped you become better. Every test you've taken has helped you mature. And the reason you shine is not because of you. You shine because of the light that is reflecting off of you as you reflect Christ. Long before Rihanna said it, Jesus was saying to His followers, "I want you to shine bright like a diamond."

3. The Light Leads Others To Rejoice

The goal of Christian service is never to portray what great people are. We should never do good so that anyone would say, "Look at all the wonderful things she or he is doing," or "Look at how nice Christians can be." The goal is that people will be drawn to the God of heaven, and say, "What a mighty God we serve!" God gets the glory when we give God the credit. And when we let our lights shine for Christ and reflect the light that comes from Him, others will be led to rejoice!

NOTES

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- 1. What are some practical ways you can shine your light?
- 2. When was a time you were tempted to take credit for yourself instead of giving credit to God? How did you respond to this temptation? What did you learn?
- 3. Is there anything in your life that is causing your light to dim? If so, what changes do you need to make to let your light shine brighter for Christ?