

It's Our Time to SHINE

Pastor Ken Claytor

I. Introduction

- a. It is time for us to let our lights shine.
 - i. We let our lights shine when we purpose our lives to serve people and show them the love of God.
 1. When our lights shine, we dispel the darkness of the world.
- b. Regardless of our current situation or how we feel, we should let our lights shine.
 - i. We should not be afraid or ashamed to publically share our faith.
 - ii. We should especially let our lights shine when times are bad.

Mathew 5:13-16 NIV

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine...

II. Light and Darkness

- a. It is especially important to shine our lights during the bad times because:
 - i. Light shines best when it's dark.
 - ii. Darkness will never defeat the light.
- b. We shine our lights because the Gospel is the only thing that holds the power to bring salvation and change lives.

John 8:12 NIV

¹² When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

III. How we Shine our Lights

- a. Show appreciation to those around us.
- b. Encourage those around us.
- c. Pray for everyone anywhere whenever the opportunity presents itself.
- d. Be kind and generous to each other.
- e. Become the solution and not the problem with bosses, supervisors and leaders.
- f. Invite people as guests to our homes to have fun and get to know us.
- g. Disciple and mentor people.

Mathew 5:14-16 The Message

¹⁴⁻¹⁶ “Here’s another way to put it: You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I’m putting you on a light stand. Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you’ll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.

IV. Tips to Shining Your Light

- a. Don't try to compete with another person's light or the way they shine.
 - i. God has created each of us to reach people in a unique and specific way.
 1. When we are who God created us to be and not how others are, we are pleasing to Him.
- b. Remove all things from our lives that are trying to put out your light.
 - i. These things could be a sin, a mindset or a habit.
 - ii. Sadness and painful memories from unresolved experiences can also diminish our ability to be lights and show love towards others.
- c. Don't be ashamed to let your light shine.
 - i. It doesn't matter how much we know about God or how long we have known him, we have something to say that will change lives for the better.

Luke 8:16 NIV

¹⁶ “No one lights a lamp and hides it in a clay jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, they put it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light.