

Title: Light the City

Series: Say Yes

Main Scripture: Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV)

Premise: The local church has the significant role and responsibility in influencing the local community. This sermon will specifically address the call for Colonial Hills to turn up the urgency in doing the work it takes to make our city look like a city of God – that His Kingdom would come in Southaven just as it is in Heaven.

Intro

>>Joke

Young Preacher who fell...

Transition

Today, we begin a new series called Say Yes. We seek to identify the key areas in which we, as a church are called to serve. Serving, at its core, is an issue of the lordship of Christ in our lives. If you say yes to a life where Christ is Lord then you are saying yes to a life of serving others.

[Ref: Matt 20:28 says that Jesus did not come to be served but he came to serve.](#)

This Say Yes series highlights the church's commission to serve. For the next 3 weeks, we will focus on 3 areas of great importance to us. Those areas are: the local community, international missions and the next generation.

But today, we're focusing on the local community. And specifically, our role as a church to impact Southaven.

Transition

The local church has the significant role and responsibility in influencing the local community. This sermon will specifically address the call for Colonial Hills to turn up the urgency in doing the work it takes to make our city look like a city of God – that His Kingdom would come on Southaven just as it is in Heaven.

The bible is very clear when it speaks to this matter. We have been charged, we have been commissioned, the ball is in our court, the responsibility of a city experiencing Christ's influence rests on our shoulders.

Jesus lit the torch when He won it all on Calvary. Then He took that same torch to ignite a flame in us – His Church. Then He told us to go, light up the world.

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey

everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

You see, He put the ball in our court. He lit the torch and told us to light the world...
It's on us...

>>In Genesis: God said, 'Let Us make man in our image...and **let them rule** over all the earth.

>>Jesus said: As the Father sent me, **I send you**.

>>Jesus also said: If you believe in Me, **you will do** even greater things than Me.

Transition

My objective today is to ensure that everybody knows that our job is to light up the world and become the dominate influence everywhere we go.

And to help me drive this home, this is the point I want you to remember.

YOUR LIGHT MUST LIGHT YOUR CITY.

>>Let's jump into our main text for today.

Matthew 5:14-16 (AMP)

¹⁴“You are the light of [Christ to] 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 a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good deeds *and* moral excellence, and [recognize and honor and] glorify your Father who is in heaven.

I've heard this passage of scripture many times in my life. And I'm sure if you grew up in church like me, you have to.

But in order for this to become a reality, there has to be a commitment to 3 areas:

--The role --The work--The responsibility

When you say yes to the community, you are individually saying yes to:

--Your role --Your work--Your responsibility. Because...

YOUR LIGHT MUST LIGHT YOUR CITY.

Now there are two sides to this coin. One side is our individual mission. And the other side is the mission we have as a corporate body that makes up Colonial Hills Church.

Our mission is to help people find and follow Jesus. And one way we actualize our mission is through our service to our city.

Transition

Let's dive a little deeper in the 3 areas of commitment:

The Role

¹⁴YOU ARE THE LIGHT of [Christ to] the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;

Q. What is my role?

A. To be light.

Light

Noun - the natural agent that stimulates sight and makes things visible.

Verb – to make (something) start burning; to ignite.

>>>Jesus said: You are the light of the world.

- That statement is so direct, so absolute, so full of confidence.
- This is Jesus validating you.
- He's declaring our role and He's letting us know that He has faith in us.

2 Corinthians 5:20 (NIV)

²⁰We are therefore CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS, as though God were making His appeal through us.

Ambassador

The highest official from a homeland sent to live in a foreign land to **represent** the homeland. When the ambassador speaks it's as if the Head of the homeland is speaking. That's the role – to govern the domain the homeland has in the foreign land just as the Head governs the homeland.

The Point: Your role is to be light. To re-present Christ to the world.

YOUR LIGHT MUST LIGHT YOUR CITY.

The Work

¹⁵nor does *anyone* light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it GIVES LIGHT to all who are in the house.

Q. What is my work?

A. To give light.

The power of light

When you turn the light on in a dark space, does light have to try hard to win?

No, you've never seen darkness win in that scenario.

But if the light is never activated, then the darkness will continue to win.

1 Corinthians 4:20 (NIV)

²⁰ For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of POWER.

>>This city should look a certain way because we're here.

>>Southaven should feel the presence of Colonial Hills Church through the work we do and by the lives that are changed. Because:

YOUR LIGHT MUST LIGHT YOUR CITY.

TRANSITION

>>The Say Yes catalog.

There are several ways to play a part in what we do in the community.

CH Sundays is our flagship. Look at the Sunday as our weekly corporate work to fulfill our mission. And it is very is to get plugged in now.

>>>Let's look together.

There are other ways as well:

- Lead a Life Group – the life blood to our spiritual depth as a body is Life Groups
- Local Missions – At the beginning

The point: There is a work we're called to do, and it takes everybody doing their part to fulfill the mission God has given this church to impact this city.

The Responsibility

¹⁶ Let YOUR LIGHT shine before men in such a way THAT THEY MAY SEE your good deeds *and* moral excellence, and [recognize and honor and] glorify your Father who is in heaven.

Q: What is my responsibility?

A: To influence the city. To live in such a way that people want the God you serve.

-Southaven should come to Christ because we're here.

-It's our responsibility to see to it that this city becomes a city of God.

-It is OUR responsibility to represent the Kingdom of God in such a way that it overwhelms the kingdoms of this city.

-If we don't then who will?

YOUR LIGHT MUST LIGHT YOUR CITY.

Closing

What hurts is the fact that a lot of us don't think we have what it takes to change the world.
-Perhaps because of our shortcomings, failures, sin...

But Jesus seems to not bring that in the equation when He says, you are the light of the world.

Yeah, I know, you miss the mark. We all do!

But understand you're just one piece of God's puzzle. And you are a broken piece. And that's ok!

Because, I believe that if everybody plays their individual part, does their very best, and brings their broken piece, God takes those broken pieces and puts together a radiant body.

A body, that allows His love to rule in their hearts.

A body that doesn't sit and allow their city to be contaminated with darkness.

A body that answer the call to be The Church of Jesus Christ.

WE are the light of the world!

The only way the **darkness** of this world will be extinguished is if the **light** of the world shines.

The only way the darkness will cease is if:

YOUR LIGHT LIGHTS YOUR CITY.