**THE PARABLE OF THE LAMP STAND**

**THE PARABLES OF JESUS #2**

Today’s parable is found in the Sermon on the Mount. In this parable, Jesus will describe what we are as Christians and what we are supposed to be doing. Our parable is found in **Matt. 5:14-16 -.** We begin this study with:

1. **Jesus’ declaration for believers – Matt. 5:14a – “Ye are the light of the world”.** In John 9:5, Jesus claims to be the “Light of the World”. In the Bible, the word “light” many times means “truth”. When Jesus walked the earth, He revealed God’s truth to the world. With Jesus in Heaven today, that task falls upon believers; we are to be the revealers of truth. Some things to note about the truth:
* **Truth comes from God.**
* **Truth never changes.**
* **Truth never dies.**
* **There is no truth aside from God’s truth.**
* **Truth must be founded upon facts.**
* **Truth does not develop; it is discovered.**
* **Truth is eternal.**
1. **Example #1 – vs. 14 – “A city on a hill cannot be hid”.** This is Dr. Albert Barnes comments on this verse – “*Many of the cities of Judea were placed on the summits or sides of mountains, and could be seen from afar. Perhaps Jesus pointed to such a city, and told his disciples that they were like it. Their actions could not be hid. The eyes of the world were upon them. They must be seen; and as this was the case, they ought to be holy, harmless, and undefiled”.* In order for God’s people to be the voice of truth, our lives must show forth how the truth has changed us. Our lives are also a tool by which we can glorify God. Today within the Contemporary Church Movement, we see an attempt to proclaim truth without living the truth. That is one of the biggest reasons why so many are either not saved or deceived into thinking that they are.
2. **Example #2 – vs. 15a – “Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel”.** Light is only introduced to stand out; it is used to dispense of darkness. No one goes out of their way to light candle and then put it under a bushel or a basket. That would defeat the purpose of the light. God has entrusted us with His truth, He expects us to shine it brightly to those around us.

What are you doing with God’s truth? Are you hiding it, hindering it or shining it?

1. **What we are supposed to do with the light – vs. 15b -.** Rather than lighting a candle just to put it under a basket, we are to instead light it and put it on a lampstand. From that perspective, it can then give light to the whole house. Something interesting about light – it dispenses darkness. There is no darkness so thick that light cannot chase it away. Darkness only exists because of the absence of light. Truth is meant to be proclaimed so as to dispense false teaching and lies. You can always chase away a lie with the truth. The only way that lies and falsehoods thrive is in the absence of truth. In our day, lies thrive because truth is hidden. Since only believers have the truth, whose fault is it that lies and falsehoods are thriving? It is the fault of good churches that have gone bad and bad churches that forsake the good. It is high-time for churches and Christians to proclaim truth to a society that knows nothing of it. Our government has taken the Bible and hid it under a basket; it must again be proclaimed without apology and fear of consequence.
2. **A second reason to shine our light – vs. 16 -.** A second reason to shine our light or the truth is so that people may “see your good works”. The idea of people seeing our good works is two-fold – to show forth the difference in our lives that the truth produces and more importantly to use those works to glorify the Lord. We are to let others know that the difference in us has nothing to do with us; it has everything to do with the power of the Gospel and beyond that the God that provided so great a salvation. God can only be real in the minds of others when they see His reality is believers. If you are not sharing God’s truth, not living God’s truth and even hindering God’s truth with a poor testimony, it is time do what you are supposed to with the light that God has entrusted us with. If you have no desire to do anything with God’s light it might just be that you never had the Light of the World in the first place.