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Allen Harris

The Gospel of Matthew #38

Sermon on the Mount: Salt & Light:

Engaging Our Community: 4

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Matthew 5:14-16

I. YOU ARE: the Light of the world (indicative)

Remember implications: World post-enlightenment is in gross darkness. The simple disciples of Jesus are more light to the world than multiple degreed researchers and analysts.

Two pictures:

A. City on a hill: not hidden. You can see it

B. Lamp in home: not hide. You can see *by* it.

II. SO LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE (imperative) So

A. The world sees it

B. It gives light in the darkness

III. What is this light? YOUR GOOD DEEDS

i.e. your living as a "Beatitude Christian" both individually and in community before the world in darkness

Examine yourself on these 6 specific kinds of good deeds:

1) rate yourself on each 0 –10:

2) how can I grow a bit in each one this fall:

3) what is the next step of faith I need to take:

A. Loving, not despising, or fearing our city and county

Jer 29:7; Prov 11:11

B. Living out your values in community

The Big Three:	Sex	–	Money	–	Power
	Purity	–	Generous	–	Serve

I Peter 2:11-12

C. Living your vocation as a servant of Jesus

Col 3:23-4

D. Observing community needs in mercy

Matching their needs with our resources in multiple ministries

Eg: Sandtown (Debbie, Lynnette)

E. Being willing to get involved in public issues and bring a Christian voice

F. Boldly sharing gospel truth in the darkness

But you said our light was our good *works*, not *words*

Cannot separate our works and words. Cf. Jesus

He is not only the Light **for** you (Isa 9:1-2; 49:6: **Matt 4:16**; John 1:4; 3:19; 8:12; 9:5; 12:46; etc.) ,

but also **from** you, that:

1. **Exposes** darkness (Eph 5:8-17, esp v11)

2. Reveals the **causes** of darkness (Eph 4:17-19; II Cor 4:2b-4)

3. Points the **way out** of darkness (Phil 2:15-16; Col 1:13-14)

Little bit at a time, but always ready to challenge to faith

IV. The **purpose** of our lights: **Praise your Father in Heaven!**

NOT:

- to create the impression that we are good people
- so God will love you more
- to add to our numbers
- because God loves busy people more

A. They will see the light of the Gospel: their need for Him and become Christians

Good deeds w/o the Gospel can actually be misleading

B. They will acknowledge your life is different, recognizing the transforming power of the Gospel

We are to shine individually where He has placed us

How is He calling **you** to step out in faith in new ways to do that this fall?

We are to shine corporately as a Body

How is He calling **CPC** to step out in faith to do that in new ways this fall?