Lights In The World

Tony Mauck · Matthew 5:13–16

INTRODUCTION

- Christianity is about this word renewal. Ongoing life change.
- We need to be beacons for the Lord and his cause. We radiate Christ's likeness. We are his representatives to a lost and very confused world. Harbingers of hope.
- If the world can't stand me, then may it be because of the truth I espouse and the good behavior that characterizes my life and my words.

1 Joy Emanating

Philippians 4:4; Philippians 4:7

- Nothing says, not light any quicker than a sour disposition. Unhappiness. Negativism.
- Rejoice in the Lord. Again, I say, rejoice.
- Ask and you will receive that your joy may be made full.
- Miserable Christians are an awful advertisement. Why would anybody want what you have?
- We have everything. And that's why we can be people of joy even in the midst of rotten circumstances.

2 Kindness Rendering

Proverbs 19:22; 2 Samuel 9:7; 1 Peter 3:8–9

- What is desirable in a man is his kindness.
- I want you to associate the word grace with this word. Grace. Grace rendering.
- You shall eat at my table regularly. Mephibosheth can do nothing for David.
- That's the way the world operates, isn't it? But that's not the way grace operates. Grace returns kindness for evil.
- Even if it's never reciprocated, even if they never respond the way the Lord wants them to. That's grace. That's what light bringers do.

3 We're All About Truth

Ephesians 4:15; Ephesians 4:21–25

- If truth is in Jesus, we need to be all about the truth if we're going to be lights to the world.
- Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth. Each one of you with his neighbor. For we are members one of another.
- When you're telling a story about what happened, and it puts somebody in a negative light, even if you're right, you better be careful how you portray that incident.
- We do not want to convey about anyone what is untrue of them.

4 A Sacrifice of Praise to God

Hebrews 13:15–16; 1 Timothy 4:12; James 3

- What it means to be light in the world has to have something to do with worshiping our God and creator.
- It says we continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God.
- A sacrifice of praise to God that is the fruit of lips that give thanks to his name. And that's why joy emanates from us, because we have a lot to be thankful for.
- And do not neglect doing good and sharing. For with such sacrifices, God is pleased.
- Our words need to be consistent with our calling, to be examples in our speech.

THE CHALLENGE

And may God help us be lights in the world.

MY NOTES