

## Our Light Shines through Our Mouths

The classic passage that talks about us (the church) as LIGHTS is Matthew 5:14-16

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<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.<sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may **see your good deeds** and glorify your Father in heaven.

However, if you only read this passage in terms us being Light then you will not get the full picture. The reason is because the *perception that you might get from this passage* is that the primary focus of what it means to be light is what other people **SEE.**

But the fuller picture is that is that to be light, the primary way that people will be impacted by your light is by what they **HEAR!**

When we look at Scripture what we see is that the primary way people receive the light of the Gospel is by what **HEAR.**

Maybe a reason we gravitate toward light being only through our deeds is because good deeds do not threaten to alienate us. But our words can alienate us.

We love what Francis of Assisi said,

*“Preach the gospel at all times and when necessary use words.”*

I think a way to adapt that statement to make it more in line with Scripture would be,

*Preach the gospel at all times and **whenever possible**, use words.*

Actually the way God designed it is that our **deeds till the soil** and our **words plant the seeds.**

**The point that I would like to say today is that OUR LIGHT SHINES THROUGH OUR MOUTHS!**

The teaching on LIGHT in the Scriptures helps us understand how God uses us and how people’s lives are changed.

We moved to NYC to share the gospel with unreached people groups. We have seen hundreds and hundreds of people impacted spiritually; we have seen hundreds come to faith and as I have tried to find the common denominator in all these cases, I finally found it!

Every single one of them heard the message of Jesus **through words**. Every one of them had someone speak to them. In the last five years or so I’ve seen a lot of superhero movies and I think that people also have a superpower, it is our words. We just don’t realize the POWER of our words. The Power to bring LIFE and the power to DESTROY. James talks about this.

**Let me share with you a few passages that give a broader view of how our light shines.**

### John 12: 46-47

<sup>46</sup> I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness. <sup>47</sup> “If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge that person...

**(Jesus calls Himself a light and then the very next thing He says, If anyone hears my words” ...)**

### John 5: 31-35

<sup>31</sup> “If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true. <sup>32</sup> There is another who testifies in my favor, and I know that his testimony about me is true. <sup>33</sup> “You have sent to John and he has testified to the truth.” <sup>34</sup> Not that I accept human testimony; but I mention it that you may be saved. <sup>35</sup> John was a lamp that burned and gave light, and you chose for a time to enjoy his light.

**(John was a light, through his testimony)**

### Acts 13: 46-49

<sup>46</sup> Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: “We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. <sup>47</sup> For this is what the Lord has commanded us:

“I have made you a light for the Gentiles,  
that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.”

<sup>48</sup> When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.

<sup>49</sup> The word of the Lord spread through the whole region.

**(Paul says that he had to speak the Word of God to the Jews first. But that God has called him to be a light to the Gentiles. When the Gentiles heard this they believed.)**

- **Titus 1: 1-3**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ to further the faith of God’s elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness— <sup>2</sup> in the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time, <sup>3</sup> and which now at his appointed season he has brought to light through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Savior,

- **Psalms 119: 105**

<sup>105</sup> Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

## THE POINT: OUR LIGHT SHINES THROUGH OUR MOUTHS

(our **deeds till the soil**, our **words plant the seeds**)

### ILL: Woman at the Well: The power of testimony

Our culture has taught us to keep our mouths shut. (Muslims don’t do this.)

**Duet. 6:** Talk about God all the time!!!

We need to **turn up the volume** to our spiritual lives. (People with a highest spiritual volume lead the most people to Christ!) --Harvest is Plentiful!

#### Conversation #1 (Let them know you are a spiritual person!)

- **Planet Fitness: Receptionist lost her phone**
- **Eye Doctor: My sin or the sin of my parents**
- **ILL: Liz and Neighbor: Do you want to come over and play**
- **Sticks in Yard: Neighbor Prays after 10 years**
- **Collateral Impact: Kenny talks to old friend in cereal isle**

**OUR LIGHT SHINES THROUGH OUR MOUTHS** (our **deeds till the soil**, our **words plant the seeds**)

### Romans 10: 13-14

<sup>13</sup> for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

<sup>14</sup> How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?