

Bible Study 04-08-2026

Scripture: Matthew 5:16 KJV

Title: Shine For Jesus

Why is this so important for us today? "There may be somebody down in the valley, trying to get home." "We are the salt of the earth, but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men". (Matt. 5:13)

Salt is a preserving agent which keeps and preserves food from rotting. Jesus also spoke in verse six of those who "thirst after righteousness." If the salt has no flavor, it becomes worthless and of no value.

Matthew 5:16 NKJV

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

The world is at war with God while God is seeking to reconcile His enemies and make them His children. This is where the believers of Christ come in. We must shine for Jesus. The very fact that the world exists tells us that we owe ourselves to the God who made us. To live as if we were in charge instead of God is to deny and suppress the most essential of truths.

"Let your light so shine":

Bring glory to God. **Colossians 3:17** KJV *"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."* To hide your light is contradictory to your purpose. Because Jesus lives, we can face tomorrow. The Holy Spirit will help you. As a believer in Jesus Christ you are not left to your own resources to cope with life. Pray. The Holy Spirit of God is a person with a mind (**Rom 8:27**), a will (1 **Cor.12:11**), and emotional feelings (**Gal. 5:22-23**). Because the Holy Spirit is a person, and is God, every Christian has God indwelling his/her body. Without Him, we

would not be able to serve the Lord in this present evil times. The Holy Spirit of God enables us to walk in the Spirit (**Gal.5:16**), worship in the Spirit (**Phil.3:3**), and witness in the Spirit (**Acts 1:8**). Right now the Comforter desires to encourage the body of Christ to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. We can start by building each other up. Point out to someone a quality you appreciate in him or her.

"before men that they may see":

Realize that the Christian life is to be lived not in our own strength but through God's power. There will be times when God allows His people to fail in order to develop them spiritually and prepare them for greater usefulness (**Luke 22:31-32**). Examine yourself: Failure does not define you, but your response will. When we base our self-worth on past failures, dissatisfaction, others opinions..., we often develop a false belief. This trick of the enemy binds people to the hopeless pessimism associated with poor self esteem.

Jesus knows us better than anyone. Many times Peter was proudly self assured about his ability to stand fast at a critical moment: **John 13:37 NKJV** "Peter asked, "Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for Your sake. Jesus answered him, "Will you lay down your life for My sake? Most assuredly I say to you, the rooster shall not crow till you have denied Me three times."

Scripture warns us in **James 4:7 KJV** "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." Submission comes before the drawing.

Proverbs 29:23 NKJV "A man's pride will bring him low, But the humble in spirit will retain honor."

To walk humbly in the presence of God daily, we avoid quenching, extinguishing, or stopping the movement of the Holy Spirit. If we had the power to live a transformed life on our own, we wouldn't need "greater grace". As the Scriptures say, God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble (**James 4:6**)." Draw near to God daily. Enter humbly into His presence with

prayer, praise and obedience. Don't wait until Sunday, start early in the week preparing and be ready to meet Him.

"your good works":

The shining light represents good works, the righteous lives Christ expects of His followers. Like Jesus, His followers are to shine in the darkness, showing the way of life. (**John 8:12**)

1 Cor.10:31 NT *"So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."*

God's reputation is more important than our personal preferences. Let us live such faithful lives that people see Jesus on display and are drawn to Him.

Titus 2:14 NLT *"He gave His life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us His very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds."*

"and glorify your Father, which is in heaven."

The old spiritual song "This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine," puts forth no time limit, no expected results, and no real strategy. It just simply tells us to be consistent, unwavering, to let our lights and our lives shine for Jesus. If it seems like no one notices, still, "I'm gonna let it shine". May our lives and our churches be the cities on hills that become beacons of hope in our dark and lost world.