

By Being Light

**Matthew
5:14-16**



**Appropriating The Happiness
That Is In You**

Series Overview

The beatitudes is a list of attitudes prescribed by Jesus during the Sermon on the Mount that are designed to build on one another to lead a Christian to true joy in Christ.

The attitudes are:

Being poor in spirit, mourning over sin, meekness, hungering and thirsting for righteousness, merciful, pure in heart, peacemaking, and willingness to be persecuted for righteousness' sake.

Only Christians that “climb” this superstructure are in a place spiritually to “appropriate the happiness that is in you,” a process that Jesus describes directly after The Beatitudes.

This process of “appropriating the happiness that is in you” similarly builds on itself with the following steps:

By Being Salt, By Being Light, By Being Law Abiding, By Controlling Anger, By Keeping Sex In Marriage, By Shunning Narcissism, By Choosing Wisely, and By Judging Carefully.

Part Two: By Being Light

*“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.
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.
In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good
deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”*

Matthew 5:14-16

Similar to Jesus’s statements in Matthew 5:13-14, Jesus’s statements in these verses are in the “emphatic mood,” meaning that you are light whether you like it or not, or are even aware of it.

Light helps guide those lost in a storm and point people to safe harbors.

1.) Light has to be visible.

In comparison to “being salt,” which is a hidden, inward, indirect process, being light works visibly, out in the open, and directly.

“Being salt” is our indirect influence by living out the Gospel in our day to day lives. “Being light” is the way in which our works serve as a direct witness for Christ.

The Gospel has both positive and negative attributes.

The Gospel requires admission and repentance of sin: a negative—and the forgiveness and peace with God: a positive.

“Being salt” works negatively, slowing corruption, while “being light” works positively in replacing the wrong.

“Being light” is not something done in the context of your church. “Being light” takes place in the marketplace, on the factory floor, in the boardroom, in the office, on school campuses, and everywhere you go.

2.) Light has to guide.

When lost in darkness, any light, no matter how faint or distant, is a welcome sight. It

necessarily becomes a point of focus and destination for the lost because it offers hope.

When your faith is visibly lived, it stands out in contrast with the darkness of the world, raising questions in the hearts of those who are not saved, glorifying God, and opening opportunities to present the Gospel.

3.) Light issues warning.

This is the most difficult part of “being light” in the world, as human beings do not like being warned, nor being confronted with the Truth.

John 3:19 tells us that:

This is the condemnation: light has come into the world, but men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

The closer you are to Jesus, the brighter your light is. This can be very threatening to those who are living darkness, as it exposes their sin for what it is.

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“Being light” requires us to engage with the world, not withdrawing from academia, politics, educational settings, and the media. What our world is most desperate for is Christian believers to shine the light of the Gospel of Christ into every area of life.

This does not mean that we are to “be a flashlight” in people’s eyes. Our light must never be displayed in anger, volatility, or revenge. Our light is to be displayed in love, compassion, and thoughtfulness.

We must have compassion on those who are in darkness, just as Jesus did in Matthew 9:36: “when he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”

We must remain steadfast in maintaining our distinctness for Christ.