

Weaving the Word

Lumen Essence

Part 20 – January 11, 2015

Welcome to a place where we're learning what it means to let our light shine.

On the hillside, in the grass, above the Sea of Galilee, Jesus was conducting apprenticeship training with His disciples. Having just said, **"You are the salt of the earth,"** (Mat 5:13) He now says:

"You are the light of the world." – Matthew 5:14a NIV

Not "should be", "could be", or "will be", but "are".

Which begs the question: **How bright is your light?**

A pastor warned a young man that a rough, secular job might prove difficult; he'd likely be harassed for his beliefs. Months later the man sees him and says "You were *so wrong!*" The pastor is surprised: "You haven't been bothered for being a Christian?" "Nope!" He says, *"They haven't even found out!"*



Jesus goes on to say:

"A city on a hill cannot be hidden." – Matthew 5:14b NIV

The best known and most visible city on a hill in Jesus' day was Jerusalem. This is a large scale model of first century Jerusalem (i.e. *city of peace; teaching of peace; abode of peace*). The actual lived-in city of Jerusalem in Jesus' day would've looked more like the Greek hill-top city of Fira, Santorini.



The Temple was constructed of white stone that gleamed so brightly in the sun, it reportedly could be seen from miles away.

In Revelation 21 (v. 2) **the New Jerusalem descends, dressed as a bride. The glory of God gives it light and the Lamb is its lamp** (v. 23) **because, after all, we are the city on a hill that can't be hidden.**



[Jesus continues] **"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."** – Matthew 5:15 NIV

This is one type of ancient, clay, oil lamp that Jesus would've been referring to.

When Paul says that Christ is the light of God's glory, and a treasure we have in jars of clay, (2 Cor 4:6-7) he could easily be referring to the common clay lamps that carried light.

What happens to a lamp's light if it's put under a bowl?

It suffocates and dies out in the darkness.

What happens if you keep *your* light undercover? Same thing.



In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. – Matthew 5:16 NIV

By saying, “let your light shine”, He's teaching that **we will determine the amount of light we allow to shine through us.**

You see, **it's not enough to receive it, we got'a reveal it.**

And, not in a way that makes people say, “Stop shining that light in my face!”

But in a way that magnifies and glorifies God's heart, so they'll praise Him instead of curse us.

People are far more likely to praise Him if they see us as a porch light or a living room lamp.

Do you know what it means to magnify and glorify God?

We magnify something to make it bigger, so it can be seen.

We glorify something to make it brighter, so it can be esteemed.

The output of light can be measured in lumens.



Our Sanyo projector is magnifying and glorifying this image of itself with 12,000 lumens of light. That's a *lot* of lumens!

That's why it's not only easy to see, but hard to miss, for everyone in the house. It's a costly, powerful, projector.

And yet, without the reflective surface of a simple blank screen it wouldn't be seen.

The screen reflects what it receives.

The more reflective the screen the more lumens are seen.

Now, the lumens of grace and mercy that God *projects* through His Word, His Spirit, and His Son, are infinite and innumerable. Question is ... are *you* reflecting what you're receiving?



How many lumens of grace and mercy do you think you're shining? Nobody needs a dim wit ... *ness*; dim witness.

Having received such a great and powerful love, how are you striving to increase your lumens of love to everyone in the house?

And, in what ways do you think you limit your lumens? What causes you to *dim down*?

Neglect? Apathy? Indifference?

Not staying plugged into the Source? No time to recharge?



Is there such a thing as *apathetic devotion*?

Seems like a contradiction.

If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. ... If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves ... – 1 John 1:6, 8a NIV

Who in their right mind would claim to be without sin?!

Anyone who marginalizes their sinful attitudes or actions.

Let's not deceive ourselves.

Is self-centeredness consumin' your lumens?

Do you dim down in fear of a world that's likely to sneer? "They haven't even found out!"

[Remember] The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. – 2 Corinthians 4:4 NIV

They really need those who've received it to reveal it. Otherwise they can't see the darkness of sin. You see, **the world *can't* see the black and white. No contrast. Everything's gray.**

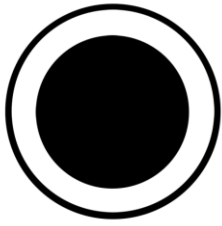
You might as well try to convince 'em that screen is black.

We compensate for darkness in so many self-deceiving ways.

That screen *is* black, by the way. You saw it with your own eyes just a moment ago.

When I showed you the picture of the Sanyo Projector, what color was it? Black? A projector can't project *darkness* – only *light*.

So, it couldn't have been darker than the screen you now see.



Look at this black circle.

Why does that circle-of-screen suddenly seem so black?

Because of the contrast.

The light surrounding it is being magnified and glorified.

And, guess what those around you will see when you really, truly magnify and glorify the Light of Life that's surrounding 'em?

Without the Light for contrast, everything is shades of grey.

Which, *again*, begs the question: **How bright is your light?**

Those who don't daily behold the brilliance of God's character and nature can look right at sin and say, "It's not so dark. It's a grey area."

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. ... for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." – Ephesians 5:8-14 NIV

After *Jesus* rose from the dead, His Spirit came as a flame, and rested on the heads of those He filled with His life and light.



The view from God's perspective must be breath taking (like flying over a city at night), seeing all His precious little clay vessel kids filled with the light of life.

All the little Night Lights He's asked to take a stand in this dark world, so that those in the enemy's house can find their way home.

I want to give you a black circle of your own.

To alert you when you're lumens are starting to fade and your light is beginning to dim. Put the black circle on your wrist. And, when you catch yourself saying or doing something unfitting for someone *walking in the light ... just snap that light back on!*

Remember those W.W.J.D. bands? This is the sadistic version; *hey, it's a dark world!*

And a little aversion therapy might be just the thing.

I'm only asking you to wear it for the rest of the day.

But, wearing it gives everyone permission to *turn up* your light.