

Don't Hide Your Light

Scripture Reading: Luke 11:33-36

- *“No one lights a lamp and hides it in a jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, they put it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light.”* (Luke 11:33)

A lit lamp is meant to illuminate, not to be hidden. Jesus' words in Luke 11 remind us of our purpose as His followers: to shine brightly in the darkness of this world. Each of us is uniquely designed by God to reflect His light, bringing hope, love, and truth to those around us. Yet, how often do we hide our light—whether out of fear, insecurity, or complacency?

The Responsibility of Leadership

If you are the head of your household or in any leadership role, your light is not just for you it is for your family and those entrusted to your care. Your gifts, talents, and abilities are tools God has given you to guide, bless, and build up others. As a leader, your example of faith, courage, and integrity becomes a beacon for your loved ones to follow.

Imagine the damage if a lighthouse keeper neglected to turn on the light. Ships would crash, lives would be lost. In the same way, when we fail to let our light shine, we not only miss our God-given purpose but also risk leaving those around us without the direction and hope they need.

Why Do We Hide Our Light?

Hiding our light might stem from:

- **Fear:** “What if I fail? What if others reject me?”
- **Insecurity:** “I’m not gifted enough. Someone else could do it better.”
- **Complacency:** “It’s not my problem. Let someone else take the lead.”

These reasons pale when we remember that our light doesn't come from us—it comes from Jesus, the Light of the World. Our task is not to create the light but to reflect His radiance.

How to Let Your Light Shine

1. **Examine Your Heart:** Are there areas where you're dimming your light? Fearful to speak truth, hesitant to serve, or slow to love? Ask God to reveal what's holding you back.
2. **Live Authentically:** People don't need perfection; they need authenticity. Share your faith and struggles in ways that point others to God's grace.
3. **Be a Blessing:** Use your gifts to serve your family and community. Whether through acts of kindness, words of encouragement, or bold leadership, let God work through you.
4. **Stay Connected to the Source:** A lamp cannot shine without oil; we cannot shine without staying connected to Jesus through prayer, Scripture, and fellowship.

A Challenge to Shine

Take a moment to examine your life today. Are you hiding your light? Have you allowed fear or distractions to keep you from fully living out your purpose? Remember, your light is not meant to glorify you but to glorify God and bless others.

Jesus said, *“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven”* (Matthew 5:16). The world needs your light. Your family needs your light. Don’t hide it. Instead, place it on a stand and let it shine brightly, pointing everyone around you to the ultimate source of light, Jesus Christ.

Prayer

Lord, You have made me a light in this world. Forgive me for the times I’ve hidden my light or failed to use the gifts You’ve given me. Help me to live boldly and brightly, reflecting Your love and truth to my family, my community, and all who cross my path. May my life always point others to You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.