

This Little Christian Light of Mine Ed Jones

Text: Matt. 5:14-16 You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. "Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Introduction:

- A. Sing the song!
- B. One of the more popular children's songs is *This Little Christian Light of Mine*.
 - 1. Sometimes we have the children learn things that they don't understand.
 - 2. While teaching them the songs we should make sure we are teaching them the meaning.
 - 3. Adults are no different.
- C. While the song is most often sung by children, its message is far from being childish.
 - 1. Children learn from adults.
 - 2. Adults often learn much from children.
- D. Let's have a look at the much needed lessons of this well-known song (adapted from an article by Cherie Vestal).

I. THIS LITTLE CHRISTIAN LIGHT OF MINE: I'M GONNA LET IT SHINE!

- A. Light, by its very nature is designed to shine.
- B. Jesus is the true light Jn. 1:4-9 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.
- C. Yet the light of Christ is hated by many Jn. 3:19-21 "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."
- D. Jesus, however, is the only way to avoid darkness
 - 1. Jn. 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."
 - 2. Jn. 11:9-10 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him."
- E. Jesus wants His followers to be "sons of light"
 - 1. Jn. 12:35-36 Then Jesus said to them, "A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them.

2. Jn. 12:46 I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.

II. HIDE IT UNDER A BUSHEL? NO!

A. We need to make sure that nothing has been allowed to cover our light (II Cor. 13:5-6). Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?--unless indeed you are disqualified. But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified.

1. Religious self-deception is an extremely powerful force toward personal destruction

a. Acts 23:1 Then Paul, looking earnestly at the council, said, "Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day."

b. I Tim. 4:1-2 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

2. There will be those even on Judgment Day who still abide in self-deception Matt. 7:21-23 Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

B. The bushel of worry and doubt—undue concern

1. Jas. 1:6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

2. One Talent man- Matt. 25:24-30 Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.' But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

3. I Cor. 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

4. Phil. 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. V 13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

a. Worry and doubt cause us to cast a negative reflection on the character of God Matt. 6:25-34 Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we

wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

b. To be absorbed in selfish worries and doubts robs us of our effectiveness, disheartens others, and often leads to strife.

C. The bushel of “business”—personal concerns that are more important than the things of God

1. Lk. 18:18-27 Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.' And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth. So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." And those who heard it said, "Who then can be saved? But He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

2. Lk. 2:49 And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"

3. Matt. 19:13-15 Then little children were brought to Him that He might put His hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven. And He laid His hands on them and departed from there.

4. To those who are over come notice this invitation- Matt. 11:28-30 "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

a. Our era has created many such formidable baskets.

b. We can even be so busy with “religion” that we never get around to Christlikeness.

D. The bushel of inconsistency—disagreement between the things we do in life

1. Matt. 23:1-3 Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, saying: "The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do.

2. I Pet. 1:22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,

3. Philip. 2:13-15 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

a. Is our “church face” a contrast to our “daily face”?

b. Do we think that doing some things well will make up for other glaring failures?

III. DON'T LET SATAN WOOSH IT OUT!

A. If our lamp is covered for too long, it may go out.

B. Keep the wick attached to the lamp base, the source of true power

1. I Jn. 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

2. II Cor. 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

3. Jer. 10:23 O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.

C. Place our lamp high up on God's stand, not low down on our own Isa. 55:9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

D. Protect the flame by always using the globe

1. Jude 24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

2. I Tim. 6:6-8 Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.

3. Phil. 4:11-13 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

IV. LET IT SHINE ALL THE TIME!

A. Proverbs 4:18 But the path of the just is like the shining sun, That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.

B. I John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Conclusion:

A. The light that comes from God must shine in us if the world is to see how to walk
II Cor. 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

TEV Yet we who have this spiritual treasure are like common clay pots, in order to show that the supreme power belongs to God, not to us.

B. We must not let the light be hidden!

C. Satan must not be allowed to put out our flame!

D. We must shine all the time!