

## E-Series Time to Shine



**14** "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** 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. **16** 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**

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Yesterday we read and reflected on Jesus' declaration: "You are the light of the world." Speaking to this ragtag group of followers he has managed to gather, Jesus places on them the onus for sharing, the responsibility for shining the light of his love to those all around. Jesus said a couple of times in another Gospel that *he* was the light of the world. For example, there is John 9:5: "While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." (Compare that with John 8:12: "When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.") But here in Matthew Jesus says to his disciples, "You are the light of the world...so let your light shine."

In Sunday's sermon I told a story about taking my friends on a golf cart tour of Daufuskie Island in the pitch-black dark. But, I didn't tell you the part where we went out to the beach. When we were pulling up, I saw a sign that said, "Turn off lights!" The sign also had a picture of a big loggerhead turtle on it.

Realizing immediately that our lights could potentially disorient baby loggerhead hatchlings trying to make it into the sea, I quickly flipped the switch to "off." See, loggerhead hatchlings naturally follow the glow of the stars and moon shining in the water of the ocean. Other lights can lead them the wrong direction, into danger and death.

Right about now, I can hear all of you science teachers out there saying, "Well, now, wait a minute. The moon doesn't actually shine. It doesn't really produce any light of its own. The moon only *appears* to shine because it reflects the light of the sun."

Maybe that's the perfect theology lesson for those of us whom Jesus calls the light of the world. We don't really shine in the sense that we produce light in and of ourselves. Like the moon which reflects the light of the sun, we shine brightly when we reflect the light of the Son.

Nevertheless, Jesus tells us that we are the light of the world, reflecting the light of his love to the world. So, "let your light shine before others that they might see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

Getting My Shine On,  
*Pastor Michael*

