

September 17, 2023  
Series: The Story, Ch. 8, Pt. 2  
Sermon: The Greatest Sermon Ever Preached  
Text: Matthew 5-7

### **Sermon Outline:**

Matthew 5:14-16: "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

**Biblical Truth:** Jesus lives in you in order to shine through you.

### **20 Ways to Light Up the World Around You:**

1. Be fully satisfied in God. (5:1-12)
2. Reconcile broken relationships. (5:21-26)
3. Attack sin before it attacks you. (5:27-30)
4. Honor marriage. (5:31-32)
5. Keep your word. (5:33-37)
6. Go the extra mile. (5:38-42)
7. Love your enemies. (5:43-48)
8. Do some things in secret. (6:1-18)
9. Invest in Heaven. (6:19-21)
10. Only look at bright objects. (6:22-23)
11. Be fully devoted to God. (6:24)
12. Don't worry about tomorrow. (6:25-34)
13. First deal with your own sin. (7:1-5)
14. Know when to spread light somewhere else. (7:6)
15. In all things, pray. (7:7-11)
16. Treat others as if they were you. (7:12)
17. Don't follow the crowd. (7:13-14)
18. Recognize false teachers. (7:15-20)
19. Make sure Jesus knows you. (7:21-23)
20. Dig in and build on His Word. (7:24-27)

***Discussion Questions are on next page...***

## Discussion Questions:

1. How familiar are you with the Sermon on the Mount? If applicable, which passage(s) in this 2300+ word sermon has been particularly meaningful to you?
2. Psychiatrist J.T. Fisher wrote:  
"If you were to take the sum of all authoritative articles ever written by the most qualified of psychologists and psychiatrists on the subject of mental hygiene--if you were to combine them and refine them and cleave out the excess verbiage--if you were to...have these unadulterated bits of pure scientific knowledge concisely expressed by the most capable of living poets, you would have an awkward and incomplete summation of the Sermon on the Mount. And it would suffer immeasurably through comparison. For nearly two thousand years the Christian world has been holding in its hands the complete answer to its restless and fruitless yearnings. Here...rests the blueprint for successful human life with optimism, mental health, and contentment." \*
  - Do agree with Dr. Fisher? Discuss what is it about Matthew 5-7 that supports his statement.
3. Peter writes in 1 Peter 3:15: "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." (NIV 1984)
  - Have you ever had someone ask you to "give the reason for the hope that you have"? If so, share about that conversation and what led to it. If not, why do you think that hasn't happened? (*There could be multiple reasons, so spend at least a few minutes here.*)
4. If God has called you to Himself, He has most likely used someone else to help you along your spiritual journey to embrace Jesus. If applicable, share about a person who had an influence on you becoming a Christian. What was it about them that made such an impact? (*Everyone's story is unique, so it might be how they lived, what they said, etc.*)
5. Read Matthew 5:14-16. John wrote in John 1:9 that JESUS was the "true light, which gives light to everyone" and "was coming into the world." And then in Matthew 5:16, Jesus said that "YOU are the light of the world." Discuss this awesome privilege that God has given us. How well do Christians see this as a serious responsibility?
6. Read the "20 Ways to Light Up the World Around You" on the previous sheet and any of the accompanying texts in Matthew 5-7 that you have time to read.
  - Which ones stand out the most in today's culture?
  - Which ones would stand out the most in the world around you?
  - Name a few areas where your light shines brightest.
  - Name a few areas where your light shines dimmest.
  - What can you do to increase your wattage?

\*James T. Fisher and Lowell S. Hawley, *A Few Buttons Missing* (Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1951), 273.

*-Unless Otherwise Noted, All Scripture is from the English Standard Version of the Bible-*