

LIFE Group Leader Handout

September 27, 2015

Shine His Light in the World

Pastor Michael O'Connor

Scripture– Matthew 5:14-16 ESV

[14] "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.

Main Idea–Jesus says that I am the Light of the World; I Will Walk in that Identity

Review:

Ministry to the Lord: I will choose to glorify the Lord in my body–He is my light and my salvation

Ministry to the Body of Christ, the Church: I will walk in the light in fellowship with God and other believers

Receive My New Identity–

- Jesus says, I am the light of the world.
- Like a lens, the twisted places in our lives refract the light of Christ in unique ways that He uses to reach people
- Light serves, I am a servant
- Light overcomes, I am an overcomer
- Light exposes–I will be opposed
- Light needs to shine in the world–I will be intentional about contact with those around me, because I am the light of the world.

Operating in My New Identity

- Accept Prominence. God puts His light in us and then increases our influence. Prominence is not pre-eminence.
- Identity My Father–they can only glorify Him if they know we are related
- Do good works

Will I choose to live as a light house or a beach house?

Application–

- Does thinking of yourself this way change anything?
- Are there ways that seeing yourself as the light of the world have changed the way you approached situations this week?
- If this is truly how we need to think, how will we assure that we continue to think of ourselves that way?

THE SANCTIFYING ACT OF MEETING TOGETHER

By Michael Kelley

There is a very, very clear instruction for group ministry found in Hebrews 10:24-25:

“And let us be concerned about one another in order to promote love and good works, not staying away from our worship meetings, as some habitually do, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”

For the writer of Hebrews, it is essential that we continue to gather. There are a lot of reasons for this:
We need to remind each other of who God is.
We need to sit under the preaching of God's Word so that we might know Him more.
We need to be surrounded by people who can encourage us in our faith and in good deeds.
We need to sing and speak and read so that we might remember the promises of God.

And the list can go on and on. But these are things that happen when we meet together. The truth is, though, there is something very sanctifying about the very action of choosing to meet together at all, apart from what happens during that actual meeting. Let me hold up my family as a case study.

It's Wednesday morning. My wife and I are in the kitchen together. One is making eggs; the other heads upstairs to wake the zombies and taste their wrath because they have to get up for school. Then, it's work and endless stream conversations, emails and meetings. My wife is running kids to school, and running errands. And community group is at our house tonight. So after the homework is done, and the kids are fed, we have roughly 30 minutes before the folks start showing up. And many weeks, it's really, really hard. And that's why the act of meeting together is sanctifying--it's because when we choose to meet together, there's an element of faith and sacrifice associated with doing so. And those two things move us forward with Jesus. Think about it--what would you (or do you) have to sacrifice in order to regularly meet with the people of God? Here are a few things:

You must sacrifice your time

You have to sacrifice your priorities in order to make room for this one.

You have to sacrifice your comfort and give yourself to this meeting.

You have to sacrifice your rest.

And in each of these things, you flex the muscle of faith in order to propel and motivate you into making that sacrifice:

You believe that the time you spend will not be wasted

You believe, no matter how important the other things you have going on are, that this is essential for the sake of your heart.

You believe what God is doing in you is more important than feeling good at a given moment.

So meet together, because the sanctification doesn't begin and end with what's discussed in the group. The act of meeting itself has great value.