

What was the point of the message on Sunday? If for some reason you missed it,

## ***Here's The Point ...***

“We Must Shine the Light of Our Hope in Christ.”

### ***1. We Must Know Who We Are In Christ***

“You are the light of the world” (v.14). This statement from Jesus comes right after the beatitudes (the description of kingdom living) in verses 2-12. Why? Because we live out what we hope in. The reason we are living counter-cultural is because we have a different hope than the world. Jesus' point is that the light of our hope causes the world to see that there's a better hope, a true hope that's found in Him. Notice, Jesus doesn't say, "Everyone is the light of the world;" He says, "You." *You*, with your faults and failures; *you*, who belong to the Kingdom of God by faith alone; *you*, are the light of the world. God wants to use YOU! Note also that He says, "You ARE the light;" not that He wishes we were the light. Jesus doesn't say, "Alright, here's your job description - you must work really hard at becoming the light of the world." No. *We are* already the light, because we're in Christ. And we're not one of many lights, but Jesus says, "You are *THE* light of the world."

### ***2. We Must Know Where Our Light Must Be***

Next, Jesus uses the metaphor of a city and a lamp and His point is simply this: The city needs to be on a hill, and the lamp needs to be on a stand (see v.14b-15). There's a place where the light of our hope must be, and it's not hidden, but on display. We put headlights on the front of a car. We put street lights on the top of the pole. We hang chandeliers from the top of the ceiling. These lights around us are put in places where they can create the most light for people to see. However, keep in mind; it's not *us* who are on display. It's our *hope*. The point is that we are living in such a way and in such a place that is impossible for our hope to be hidden. It will shine and "give light to all who are in the house" (v.15). The idea here is that each one of us has a sphere of influence that needs to be impacted by the hope we have in Christ that is being lived out in our day to day life.

### ***3. We Must Know Why We're Called to Shine It***

In verse 16 we learn that when we're living out our hope in Christ, it will cause others to see our good works and glorify our Father who is in heaven. The life of worship is the outshining of our hope in Christ that leads others to worship God and find their delight in Him. But watch this; our light is not our good works. Jesus tells us to shine our light so that they may see our good works. Our good works are not displayed but seen, seen in the light of our hope. He doesn't say, "Show off your works so they're seen," but shine your hope and they'll be seen. It comes down to motives. What's our motive for how we're living? Our glory or God's glory? The motive is not to draw attention to ourselves as 'light-bearers,' but to draw ALL the attention to the 'Light-Source.'