**April 14, 2019 “This Little Light of Mine” Matthew 5:1-16**

**Matthew 5:14-16**

I think that whenever we open the Word of God, regardless of where we are at whether it is at home or at church or some other place, we should always ask ourselves two questions. The first is… “What am I am learning or what insight am I gaining through my reading of this passage?” And the second question we should ask is this… “How am I going to incorporate what I have learned into my life here on earth?”

When we have this approach to the Scriptures, we will find that even though they were written centuries ago, they still have relevance for us today. You may ask why this is true and the answer is that the needs of man have never changed since the days of Adam and Eve. Those needs are: 1) mankind needs to be forgiven; 2) mankind needs to be loved, and; 3) mankind needs to know why they are here, living in this time in the history of the world.

There is also one other thing that is absolutely essential for us to remember and it is this… we are the church of Jesus Christ… “the ecclesia”… the called out ones. We are called to be the church in an ever increasingly wicked world where sexual deviancy is glorified; where violence and drug use is rampant; spiritual blindness in the form of Islam, witchcraft and atheism is on the rise in our country and we are inundated with false teachers on television and the Internet that tell us everything is fine because God wants to make you healthy, wealthy and wise.

We are called to be “faithful witnesses” in this culture.

So how do we do this?

Revelation 1:12-20… This is the same Jesus who was sitting before the multitude on the mountain where He delivered the sermon we are studying today.

1. Mystery of the seven golden lampstands and the seven stars…
   1. 7 churches all with issues
      1. Ephesus… false teachers
      2. Smyrna… persecution
      3. Pergamum… in the synagogue of Satan
      4. Thyatira… idolatry
      5. Sardis… dead church
      6. Philadelphia… church in revival
      7. Laodicea… lukewarm
   2. Look who is standing in the midst of these seven churches
      1. Alpha and Omega
         1. The beginning and the end
      2. The One who was dead
         1. Alive forevermore
      3. Holding the keys of
         1. Death and Hell
   3. He is holding the seven stars in His hand
      1. The people of God

Herein lies the greatest problem in the church in America today… we do not see Jesus as He is today…

1. Matthew 5:1-16
   1. Here we have the One who walks in the midst of the golden candlesticks and He says
      1. He started providing all the things to make us truly happy and that will go on forever and ever in this life and the life to come. God offers us salvation, from our perspective, to bring to us true happiness, contentment, bliss, joy, gladness.
      2. That’s what God offers. And the path, or the pattern to receive that blessing and to enter the kingdom is outlined for us in these incredible Beatitudes.
      3. It starts with being poor in spirit
         1. A begging for forgiveness because of our spiritual poverty
      4. Mourning
         1. Over our sins and the sin we see all around us
      5. Being meek or gentle
         1. Moses was the meekest man on the face of the earth (Numbers 12:3)
         2. Yet he led the Israelites for 40 years in the wilderness
            1. Why?
            2. He carried the staff of God with Him
            3. He knew all his strength was not his… but Gods
      6. Hungering and thirst...thirsting for righteousness
         1. Philippians 3:8-9
      7. It manifests itself in an attitude of mercy, purity
         1. Micah 6:6-8
      8. Peacemaking
         1. Philippians 4:4-7
      9. Which causes the world to react to us with reviling and persecution and false accusation
         1. II Corinthians 11:24-29
      10. But in the end, it transforms us in verse 13 into salt and
      11. Verse 14 through 16 into light

Why is all this true? Because of who He is… today… He is walking among the candlesticks and holding you and me in His hand.

John 17:14-16

That is why this little light of mine… shines. Is that why your light does as well?