

ActNow! (Applying Christ's Teaching NOW) follows the weekly sermon series of TPMC, and challenges us to apply and put into practice the biblical truths we hear each week. It is the recommended Bible discussion material for TPMC's Connect Groups, and leader's notes are available to all Connect Group Leaders and at the Information Counter.

Talents and Stewardship: The Lamp on the Stand

Mark 4:21-25

Mr Tim Wade

SERMON SYNOPSIS

- This sermon marks the seventh and final instalment in the sermon series on Talents and Stewardship. It explores the theme of how we are stewarding the light and hope that Christ has given to us.
- **The Lamp Has Come (Jesus as the Light).** Jesus is the Lamp who has come to reveal God and His Heavenly Kingdom. Unlike a lamp hidden under a bowl, Jesus entered a dark world not to remain obscure but to illuminate it fully. His identity and mission were made known through His teaching, miracles, death, and resurrection. This image of God as light is rooted in the Old Testament, where David declared in 2 Samuel 22:29 that God is his lamp, and Psalm 119:105 affirms that God's word is a lamp to our feet. Jesus is the fulfilment of this light — the definitive Lamp that shows the way to God and His Kingdom.
- **The Lamp Lights Others.** As believers, we are called to reflect the light of Christ. Jesus is the primary source of light and believers reflect His light, much like how the moon reflects the sun's light. This pattern of receiving blessing in order to bless others runs throughout Scripture: in Genesis 12:2-3, God blessed Abraham so that all nations would be blessed through him; in Exodus 19:6, Israel was set apart as a priestly nation to bring others to God; and in 1 Peter 2:9, Christians are called to declare the praises of the One who called them out of darkness. Light is never self-serving — it always reveals something beyond itself.
- **Do Not Hide the Light.** Jesus calls us to steward this light with great care. In Mark 4:24-25, He urged believers to pay careful attention to how we respond to the light we have received. When we choose to faithfully steward what God has revealed, we will deepen our understanding of God & our trust in Him and people around us *will* see Jesus in our lives. Those who have genuinely received God's light will carry it faithfully, and shine. But if we do not faithfully steward what God has revealed, we are hiding the light of Jesus due to fear, personal comfort, social rejection, legal consequences, &/or physical danger, etc.
- **Call to Action.** On Judgement Day, what our lives truly were will be revealed. When that day comes, there will not be any U-turns. Therefore, we are exhorted to act on God's Word *today*.

There are two practical ways to let our light shine in the coming week: specific gratitude and simple invitation. Rather than offering vague thanks, let us take the effort to intentionally and specifically thank others as specific gratitude shines light onto people whose faithfulness has gone unnoticed. We are using light to reveal the goodness God has been producing through that person. Secondly, let us intentionally invite someone to Church and in doing so, we are shining for them a way so that they have a chance to believe in Jesus, the Light of the world.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

RELATE

1. Think about someone you know (either personally or from a distance) who beautifully reflects the warmth and love of Jesus. Share with your CG what is it about their attitude or daily actions that makes you notice God's "light" in them?

REFLECT

2. Using the following verses, discuss with your CG why we must shine for Jesus and what it means to do so in the real world, be it at home, in the workplace/school, in the community or even in Church.

[Verses to help us go deeper: Matthew 5:16, Galatians 5:22-23, Luke 23:34.]

RESPOND

3. Identify the practical steps you have chosen to take this week to shine for Jesus so that pre-believers around you can see His love, forgiveness and generosity. Note what may hold you back (Eg. fear, comfort, rejection, legal risks, danger, or other costs), and share with your CG your resolve to shine for Christ this week and beyond! Pray for one another as each one takes the steps to intentionally shine for Jesus.

PRAYER POINTERS

- Praise God for blessing TPMC with a God-fearing team of pastoral staff who seek to honour Him in all that they do.
- Pray for God to provide an opportunity for all of us in TPMC to share the Gospel with a pre-believer and for us to have the sensitivity and conviction to do so.
- Pray for God to continue to transform us in His likeness, so that our actions, which arise from a transformed inner man, may bring glory to God.

SCRIPTURE TO MEDITATE ON

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." [Matthew 5:16]