

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

Matthew 5:14 You are the LIGHT of the world -- People don't hide a light under a bowl

Song from childhood:

This little light of mine – I'm going to let it shine – let it shine – let it shine!

Hide it under a bowl – NO! Hide it under a bowl – NO! I'm going to let it shine

A light does not give off light to be seen in a brightly light area, It takes darkness for a light to shine. You have to confront darkness for your light to shine and to have success producing fruit for the Lord..

We work in Eastern Europe with the poorest of the poor and those entrapped in sexual slavery to lead them to the Lord. You can hardly get in any darker environment than that and the evil in that darkness is very very evil.

This bowl which I used has special meaning to my wife and I. At times while serving the Lord, the churches that were to send support had financial issues and did not send support as promised, we had only this small bowl to share for one meal a day for the two of us. I tell you this to remind you to support your missionaries with prayer and with financial support because they are working to spread God's message in the darkest areas. But, note that we did not starve and God did provide miracles such that we could continue to let our light shine for His glory.

Yet, you also have areas of darkness all around you even in this blessed country of the United States.

Why are some people afraid of sharing the gospel of our Lord and Savior and letting their light shine in these areas of darkness to reach the potential level of success that God put in them? Lets consider 4 possible reasons:

1. Someone will laugh at you: Remember your Savior received scorn from the highest levels of his day, and Jesus said in Matt. 10:32 "All those that stand before others and say they believe in me , I will say before my Father in heaven that they belong to me"
2. You will not be politically correct in what you say: Which is better to be politically correct and spiritually dead OR politically incorrect and live with Christ forever.
3. You are too BUSY with everything to go out of your comfort zone.

Remember what BUSY means!

Does "BUSY" mean: B-eing U-nder S-atan's Y-oke?

B-eing

U-nder

S-atan's

Y-oke?

4. I am **afraid** of what might happen to me if I confront the darkness in my world!

You are buried in a tomb of fear. Roll away the stone in front of your tomb and be resurrected to a full life of a transformed believer. Note, the change in the apostles. And in Matt: 10:28 Do not fear those that can kill the body but not the soul. Fear only God who holds your entire life (body and soul) in His hands.

Call on the name of Jesus when you are in danger for doing his work in helping those in need and sharing the gospel in darkness. The name of Jesus is all powerful and he will be with you. Example: Walk between two churches.

One last thought about the bowl that keeps many lights hidden and prevents success. For many in the US the bowl is the church. They can not get out where the darkness is

Lord, we pray that ears have heard and hearts been opened to let lights shine in the darkest area they can find. Amen

Please pass this on, if you aren't too BUSY

Hmmmm..... sound familiar?

SATAN'S MEETING: (Read even if you're busy)

Satan called a worldwide convention of demons.

In his opening address he said, "We can't keep Christians from going to church. We can't keep them from reading their Bibles and knowing the truth...."

"We can't even keep them from forming an intimate relationship with their savior."

"Once they gain that connection with Jesus, our power over them is broken."

"So let them go to their churches; let them have their covered dish dinners, BUT steal their time, so they don't have time to develop a relationship with Jesus Christ.."

"This is what I want you to do," said the devil:

"Distract them from gaining hold of their Savior and maintaining that vital connection throughout their day!"

"How shall we do this?" his demons shouted.

"Keep them busy in the non-essentials of life and invent innumerable schemes to occupy their minds," he answered.

"Tempt them to spend, spend, spend, and borrow, borrow, borrow."

"Persuade the wives to go to work for long hours and the husbands to work 6-7 days each week, 10-12 hours a day, so they can afford their empty lifestyles."

"Keep them from spending time with their children."

"As their families fragment, soon, their homes will offer no escape from the pressures of work!"

"Over-stimulate their minds so that they cannot hear that still, small voice."

"Entice them to play the radio or I-Pod whenever they drive. To keep the TV, DVDs, CDs and their PCs going constantly in their home and see to it that every store and restaurant in the world plays non-biblical music constantly."

"This will jam their minds and break that union with Christ."

"Fill the coffee tables with magazines and newspapers."

"Pound their minds with the news 24 hours a day."

"Invade their driving moments with billboards."

"Flood their mailboxes with junk mail, mail order catalogs, sweepstakes, and every kind of newsletter and promotional offering free products, services and false hopes."

"Keep skinny, beautiful models on the magazines and TV so their husbands will believe that outward beauty is what's important, and they'll become dissatisfied with their wives. "

"Keep the wives too tired to love their husbands at night."

"Give them headaches too! "

"If they don't give their husbands the love they need, they will begin to look elsewhere."

"That will fragment their families quickly!"

"Give them Santa Claus to distract them from teaching their children the real meaning of Christmas."

"Give them an Easter bunny so they won't talk about his resurrection and power over sin and death..."

"Even in their recreation, let them be excessive. Have them return from their recreation exhausted."

"Keep them too busy to go out in nature and reflect on God's creation.

Send them to amusement parks, sporting events, plays, concerts, and movies instead."

"Keep them busy, busy, busy!"

"And when they meet for spiritual fellowship, involve them in gossip and small talk so that they leave with troubled consciences."

"Crowd their lives with so many good causes they have no time to seek power from Jesus."

"Soon they will be working in their own strength, sacrificing their health and family for the good of the cause."

"It will work!"

"It will work!"

It was quite a plan!

The demons went eagerly to their assignments causing Christians everywhere to get busier and more rushed, going here and there.

Having little time for their God or their families.

Having no time to tell others about the power of Jesus to change lives.

I guess the question is, has the devil been successful in his schemes?

You be the judge!

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