



Be Light

Matthew 5:14–16 (NLT): You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

"When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said "Repent," he intended that the entire life of believers should be repentance." Martin Luther, *Ninety-five Theses*

If we want to be light in the world, our faith has to be not just a set of beliefs or knowing the Bible but a way of life that others can observe.

Micah 6:8: He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:6–7: With what shall I come before the LORD, *And* bow myself before the High God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, With calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, Ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn *for* my transgression, The fruit of my body *for* the sin of my soul?

"God loves and defends those with the least economic and social power, and so should we. That is what it means to 'do justice.'" Tim Keller

"The basic meaning of this word Mishpat (justice) is 'to establish the heavenly norm or pattern on earth.' Normally this concept is applied to society, i.e., the bringing of society into the right order or arrangement." Bruce Waltke

"Justice is what love looks like in public." Dr. Cornel West

"Love is giving until it hurts." Mother Teresa

"True gospel-humility means I stop connecting every experience, every conversation, with myself. In fact, I stop thinking about myself. The freedom of self-forgetfulness. The blessed rest that only self-forgetfulness brings." Tim Keller

Matthew 5:14: You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden.

Transformational discipleship is costly and life-changing.

Grant us, Lord God, a vision of your world as your love would have it:
a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor;
a world where the riches of creation are shared, and everyone can enjoy them; a world where people from diverse cultures and backgrounds live in harmony and mutual respect; a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love.

Give us the inspiration and courage to build it, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.