

SCRIPTURE TALK

“Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works”

Matthew 5:16

We know, of course, that when there is no light on an object, it cannot be seen. For example, if we are out after dark, we won't see the trees. But when the sun is shining, it's easy to see them. As the light changes from time to time during the day, the way the trees appear will change a little, too. These are the changes in light that the Impressionists were interested in. But, while trees are affected by the light that surrounds them, **people are affected by a different kind of light. They are affected by the light of Christ that shines through us.**

Jesus said in John 8:12, *“I am the light of the world.”* Did you know that people who have Jesus living on the inside give off a kind of light, too? The light they give off is the light of life. Matthew 5:14 and 15 says, *“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.”*

By putting our light on a candlestick, we are letting God's love be seen by others. It is seen through **the light of his love on our faces and by the good works**, such as goodness and mercy, that we show as we go about our day. That love draws people to Christ where they will find life.

If we hide the light of Christ, then we will be like the sun when it hides behind the horizon. Just as we can see the light in Manet's painting shining on the ripples on the water, we need to let others see the light of Jesus shining through us.



Edouard Manet, *Monet Painting in his Studio Boat*, 1874, Barnes Foundation, Philadelphia, PA