

Week 11
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Transforming Daily
“... *You are the light of the world* ...”
Matthew 5:14-16

I'm not really sure if it was a literal cultural practice to light a lamp and put it under a basket or whether Jesus was only using a spiritual analogy concerning the purpose of light. However, if it were a custom for the Jews to light a lamp and put it under a basket, it would make a clearer connection. The only question then would be, “Why would anyone want to light a lamp and put it under a basket?” Before we get to skeptical, let's think about the circumstances practically.

In your household, there is probably someone who rises earlier than another, and courteously the early riser will probably turn on very few lights or shade the light that is being used from those who are still asleep. In essence, the early riser dims the light. *Visa versa*, there is probably someone in your household who stays up late, and courteously, for the same reason as the early riser, turns off as many lights as possible so as not to disturb those who are trying to go to sleep. Either way, the result is still the same and that is to keep the light from shining so brightly that others are not bothered by it. Now on the other hand, still practically speaking, what if it were someone who is doing something in the house that they didn't want the rest of the household to see or know about (let's say like around Christmas time). Early riser or late to bed, the exercise would be the same and that is not to draw attention to what is going on.

With this in mind, for the household analogy it would be acceptable and even expected. But apply what is being said in Matthew as it relates to life and ministry regarding The Light of the world, Jesus Christ. With respect to this passage, we are to allow His light that shines within us to burst forth with such dynamic force that it willfully does bother those who are, spiritually speaking, asleep, and reveals to those who are, again, spiritually speaking, blind to what God is doing. If you are born again, you are the light of the world. How brightly are you shining?