Dear Open Door Family,

Have you ever tried to drive your car at night after the headlights have been covered with mud? It is very, very hard to see. But if you take time to clean off those headlights it makes it easy for them to shine brightly as they were designed, so that you can see and drive safely. Jesus used many ordinary examples when He taught. Cities on hills could be seen at a distance. Lamps that were lit were always placed in positions where they could cast the most light. Let's look at these verses together.

Matthew 5:14-16 *(NIV) [14] "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. [15] Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. [16] In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.*

Matthew 5:15-16 *(MSG) If I make you* ***LIGHT-BEARERS****, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. [16] Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand - shine!*

Life Application Study Bible: "Can you hide a city that is sitting on top of a mountain? Its light at night can be seen for miles. If we live for Christ, we will glow like lights, showing others what Christ is like. We hide our light by (1) being quiet when we should speak, (2) going along with the crowd, or (3) letting sin dim our light."

I Love the way the Message paraphrases verse 15. I AM A LIGHT-BEARER... as such I am supposed to carry the light and display the light in such a way that it can be seen, enjoyed, or benefit the largest number of people. God has uniquely placed us exactly where HE wants us to be. The neighborhood we live in, the job we have, the family we belong to are not accidents or mere chance. God places us exactly where He wants us. It is our job to SHINE brightly where He put us.

PRAYER: Lord, help me to shine brightly where You have placed me. Help me to make sure that nothing hinders my light from shining. Help me to be a Light-Bearer for You.

Pastor Mark Kieft
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