

Matthew 5:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

After declaring disciples to be light, Jesus commands them to shine publicly. A city on a hill cannot be hidden—it's visible from all directions. Christians are not called to private faith but public witness. Hiding one's light denies the very purpose of being illuminated by Christ.

Historical Context

Hilltop cities were common in ancient Palestine for defense purposes and were visible landmarks. Jesus likely pointed to such a city while teaching. This metaphor would resonate powerfully with His audience who saw such cities daily.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. In what ways are you tempted to hide your Christian faith rather than letting it shine publicly?
2. How can you be a visible witness without being self-righteous or hypocritical?

Interlinear Text

οὐδὲ καίουσιν λύχνον καὶ τιθέασιν αὐτὸν ὑπὸ τὸν
Neither do men light a candle and put it under G3588
G3761 G2545 G3088 G2532 G5087 G846 G5259

μόδιον ἀλλ' ἐπὶ τὴν λυχνίαν καὶ λάμπει πᾶσιν
a bushel but on a candlestick and it giveth light unto all
G3426 G235 G1909 G3588 G3087 G2532 G2989 G3956

τοῖς ἐν τῇ οἰκίᾳ
that are in the house
G3588 G1722 G3588 G3614

Additional Cross-References

Mark 4:21 (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, Is a candle brought to be put under a bushel, or under a bed? and not to be set on a candlestick?

Luke 11:33 (Light): No man, when he hath lighted a candle, putteth it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light.

Luke 8:16 (Light): No man, when he hath lighted a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth it under a bed; but setteth it on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light.

Numbers 8:2 (Light): Speak unto Aaron, and say unto him, When thou lightest the lamps, the seven lamps shall give light over against the candlestick.

Exodus 25:37 (Light): And thou shalt make the seven lamps thereof: and they shall light the lamps thereof, that they may give light over against it.

