

# 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

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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

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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

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**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

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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

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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 G3588

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

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**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.

