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Light of the World V (The Everlasting Light)

Influencing The Culture

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- I. Series: New Series Influencing the Culture
 - A. Matthew 5:¹³ **Ye are the SALT OF THE EARTH: ...**
 - B. Subjects: Salt of the Earth I(Seasoning), II(Preservative), III(Disinfectant), IV(Offering)
 - C. Matthew 5:14–16 (AV)¹⁴ **Ye are the LIGHT OF THE WORLD...**
 - D. Subject: The Darker it gets, the Brighter we shine (Overpower, Overcome, Overshadow)
 - E. Subject: Revealing The Vision (Watching, Writing, Waiting on the Vision)
 - F. Subject: Ordering Your Steps (Temptation to Triumph, Evil to Good, Death to Life)
 - G. Subject: Out of Darkness, Into The Marvelous Light (Ignorance, Fear, Weakness)
- II. Homework: Study Matthew 5:14 -16, Zechariah 4:1-6
 - A. Who are the two olive trees, and what do they represent?
- III. Text
 - A. Zechariah 4:1–6 (AV)¹ And the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep, ² And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which *are* upon the top thereof: ³ And two olive trees by it, one upon the right *side* of the bowl, and the other upon the left *side* thereof. ⁴ So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What *are* these, my lord? ⁵ Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. ⁶ Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This *is* the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.
 - B. Matthew 5:15–16 (AV)¹⁴ **Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**
- IV. Subject: Influencing The Culture: Light of the World V (The Everlasting Light)
 - A. Matthew 5: ¹⁴ **Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.**
 - B. Subject: Light of the World IV (Out of Darkness, Into The Marvelous Light)
 - 1. Called Out of the Darkness of Ignorance, Into the Marvelous Light of Truth
 - 2. Called Out of the Darkness of Fear, Into the Marvelous Light of Faith
 - 3. Called out of Darkness of Weakness into the Marvelous Light of Power
 - C. Let's now look at the source of our Light
 - 1. Matthew 5: ¹⁵ **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.**
 - 2. The challenge we have as Christians is maintaining our light. When we accept Christ, we all are given the light, but the problem comes when our light goes out.
 - 3. When the world sees us shining one day, and the next day we have no light, it impacts our ability to influence the world.
 - 4. Galatians 5:7 (AV)⁷ Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?
 - D. In our first lesson text, we see a picture of our light on a candlestick.
 - 1. There's a bowl on top filled with oil.
 - 2. The bowl is feeding seven pipes which are feeding seven lamps of light.
 - 3. Now the source of the oil comes from two olive trees on the left and right.
 - 4. Zechariah 4: ⁵ Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord.
 - 5. This was the time when the first group of the tribe of Judah had returned to

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Jerusalem after 70 years of Babylonian captivity; to rebuild the temple.

6. Zerubbabel was the civil leader of Jerusalem; He represented human might (brawn: ability, wealth, resources, and physical strength).
7. Joshua was the religious head of Jerusalem; He represented human power (brains: mind, material, and mental strength)
8. Now because of the because of the Danger from without, and the discouragement from within, the people were starting to lose their faith in their Might and Power.

E. It is in our Key verse that God assures them that their light would not go out:

1. Zerubbabel (human might) was one olive tree feeding the light!
2. Joshua (human power) was the other olive tree feeding the light!
3. Zechariah 4: ⁶Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This *is* the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

F. Subject: Light of the World V (The Everlasting Light)

V. The Light of Might (Fighting the Danger from Without)

A. Zechariah 4: ⁶ Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This *is* the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, ***Not by might***, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

B. Might is what most people use to battle the danger from without.

C. The Problem with Human Might as the Source of Our Light

1. ***“Might”*** comes from the Hebrew word “Khah”, and is a general word for human resources such as physical strength, human ability, or wealth.
2. Might is great and impressive power or strength, especially of a nation, large organization, or natural force. It would be the brawn of man or human ability.
3. Zerubbabel represented one of the olive trees supplying oil to the candlestick. He was the civil leader of Jerusalem.
4. This source of light comes from human pride! It’s based in the adage “Might is Right”; so if we have enough power, people, resources, money; then we’re right!
5. It is epitomized by Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel the 4th chapter.
6. Daniel 4: ³⁰ The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?
7. When our Light is based on our might, God resists us.
8. James 4:6 (AV)⁶ But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.
9. Nebuchadnezzar lost his kingdom and everything he had and turned into a beast.

D. Not By Might

1. Somethings we become disheartened by our ***Might***: disheartened when people fail us, disheartened when money fails us, disheartened when life fails us.
2. Psalm 146:3–4 (AV)³ Put not your trust in princes, *nor* in the son of man, in whom *there is* no help. ⁴ His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.
3. God’s word to Zerubbabel was, “Don’t be dishearted by your numbers and the danger from without because it’s ***Not By Might***”!

VI. The Light of Power (Fighting the Discouragement from Within)

A. Zechariah 4: ⁶ Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This *is* the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, ***nor by power***, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

B. Power is what most people use to battle the discouragement from within.

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C. The Problem with Human Power as the Source of Our Light

1. **“Power”** comes from the Hebrew word “Kowach”, and it also denotes mere human strength, but deals more with material or mental strength.
2. It is the ability to do something or act in a particular way.
3. Joshua represented the other olive tree supplying oil to the candlestick. He was the religious head of Jerusalem.
4. This source of light comes from human righteousness! It is the belief that we can earn what’s right. If we just live saved enough, holy enough, righteous enough.
5. Isaiah 64:6 (AV)⁶ But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.
6. Galatians 5:7 (AV)⁷ Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?

D. Nor By Power

1. Sometimes we become discouraged by our **Power**: discouraged when we’re let down by those we believed it; discouraged when we’re deceived by those we trusted; discouraged when we’re betrayed by those closest to us.
2. Philippians 4:6–7 (AV)⁶ Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
3. Again God’s Word to Zerubbabel was, “Don’t be disheartened by the discouragement from within because it’s “Not by Might, **Nor By Power**”!

VII. The Light of Spirit (Fighting with the Everlasting Light)

A. Zechariah 4: ⁶ Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This *is* the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, **but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.**

B. We must battle to continue to shine our light before men

1. It’s **Not By Might**: The Pride of our human abilities, resources, or strength
2. It’s **Not By Power**: The Righteousness of our human mind, emotions, or will.
3. But it’s **By My Spirit** says the Lord of Hosts!

C. The Source of our Light to the World must be the Spirit of God’s Power

1. The Power of the Holy Ghost

- a. Acts 1:8 (AV)⁸ **But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

2. The Power of our Spiritual Weapons

- a. 2 Corinthians 10:4 (AV)⁴ (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

3. The Power of our Prayers

- a. James 5:16 (AV)¹⁶ Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

4. The Power of our Unity

- a. Matthew 18:¹⁹ **Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.**

5. The Power of our Spiritual Access

- a. Matthew 16:19 (AV)¹⁹ **And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.**