



TRANSFORMED

DEVOTIONS CONNECTING TEENS TO CHRIST

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 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. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:14-16

Leading by Example

Can you remember doing something just to get attention? Such behavior was on full display when we were 3—making a silly face, throwing a fit or flopping ourselves on the ground. But doing things to get attention today still comes in handy—like when you're choking or wide open on the football field or when you pass by the person who has smitten your heart. We do things to get attention.

It's a good thing that we practice getting attention when we're young and perfect it when we get older because part of being a Christian is to get attention. Not attention for ourselves, but attention for Jesus, *In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.* We are to live our lives in such a way that when people see us they say, "Why are you the way you are...why do you make the choices you do?" This gives us the chance to say, "I live my life this way because Jesus loves me." Of course the flip side is, when we are not living like the children of God we are, people will take notice and say, "I thought you were different," and God's name is shamed by what we do and say.

And so we look to Jesus' love for us. His love for us moved him to die on the cross to pay the price for every time our light shone out sin and shame instead of Jesus' love for us. As fully forgiven children of God we get to live his love for us in our lives. We get to be kind and patient when we are treated less than kindly. We get to pursue whatever is noble and right, even though many around us pursue what is not appropriate for the child of God.

We get to live these virtues in our lives to get attention for Jesus. Our light shines a light on Jesus as the reason and source of the love we live in our lives. Our light leads people to Jesus. People will notice. They will notice you. They will notice Jesus. Leading people to Jesus by the way we live our lives...what a great way to get attention for God!

PRAYER:

Dear Jesus, continue to grow my faith through your Word. Grow my light that I might lead people to see your great love for me and for them. Amen.