

## Monday Morning Meditation: Matthew 5:16



Monday Morning Meditations is a faith community that reflects on a Bible verse each week. Thank you for visiting!

**If you'd like to join the conversation, simply write a reflection on your own blog about this verse, and follow the link-up buttons at the bottom of this post.** Then, encourage the blogger who linked up before you by reading her post and leaving a comment.

Of course whether you link up or not, we'd love to hear from you in the comments or on twitter!



**IN THE SAME WAY, LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE  
OTHERS, THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD DEEDS AND  
GLORIFY YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN.  
MATTHEW 5:16**

**Out of the corner of my eye, I saw her studying me and I could tell that she was contemplating whether her thoughts warranted being spoken aloud.**

She approached and I met her gaze with a smile.

*"Jane, you're so full of energy and enthusiasm," she said. "I can tell that about you. You're different."*

I wondered how she could know much of anything about me after our brief and isolated interactions, but I stored her words away and considered whether this might be true.

(After all, as a non-coffee drinker, the only thing I generally feel energetic about in the morning is hitting the snooze button.)

On Friday she eyed me again.

I smiled and probably looked over my shoulder to make sure there wasn't some dazzling individual standing behind me.

*"Jane, you're always smiling. Every time I see you, you're smiling."*

Hmm. I pondered this as well, knowing how often my attitude is sour and my mind fills with complaints while my heart is out-of-joint. My children will happily point out that I am certainly *not* always smiling.

But could it be I am more smiley than the average human? More enthusiastic than another?

**Regardless of where my personality ranks in such matters, it occurred to me [while at work this week](#) that there is at least one person who sees something different.**

**Apparently, there is one person who is taking note.**

**And that means there is a good chance that others may be doing the same.**

## **What Matthew 5:16 Teaches Me Today:**

So what does it mean to "let your light shine"?

I've been pondering this a lot lately. How can I bring Jesus into the secular parts of my world? How can you?

*(PS: if you're thinking that you don't **have** secular pieces to your life, I recommend that you get some! Jesus models this over and over in the Gospels).*

Does taking Jesus along mean that we keep a pile of tracts in your handbag? Does it mean my Bible--or yours-- is in full view of anyone who enters my home, gets a ride in my car, or passes my desk? Does it mean that I quote Scripture with the employees at Costco?

**Not necessarily**, though feel free to keep your Bible handy.

**For me, Matthew 5 is an encouragement to live in such a way that our light is undeniable; that we glow with some intangible quality that makes others raise an eyebrow.**

Light-shining should be so intrinsic to our Jesus-following-DNA that it is just as much a part of us as eating our lunch; that is it just as natural as breathing deeply.

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Shining your light should give others a reason to take notice and say *thank you*. If the recipient of your kindness is already a believer, they will thank God for you. They will be blessed by you and feel the better for it.

And if the witness of your light-shining is *not* a believer, your behavior should open the door to them asking questions. It should prompt them to wonder *why you're so weird...or at least why you're not like everyone else they know*.

That's a challenge I think about every day.

May God pull open any shades I draw or blinds I close; may He wipe away any haze in my windshield, so that by looking at me, **they see HIM**.