

Dear MPC Family,

October 6, 2023

Earlier this fall, we began a sermon series examining Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. I found the message of Salt and Light particularly interesting as we enter the stewardship season. In Matthew 5:14-15, Jesus tells his disciples, "You are the light of the world. A city 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."

With hindsight and a measure of grace, I always get a chuckle when Jesus leaves his disciples so easily confused! However, in this case, Jesus makes his point clear. He continues in verse 16, "In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

Jesus is teaching us that when we let our light shine, we make a kingdom impact. And when we put our gifts to good use, we fulfill the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19 of making disciples of all nations. What good is our lamp if we keep it hidden and miss the opportunity to share God's blessing with others?

In November, MPC will have its Pledge Month in which each of us commits to how we will support its ministries financially in 2024. In preparation for this time, I ask you to prayerfully consider how God is calling you to invest in what He is doing in and through our church. I also encourage you to reflect on the ways God has gifted you and envision the people that will be served and the ministries created by your gifts. Together, let us give thanks to God for the blessings He continues to show us at MPC!

In Christ,

Matt Balanky – Stewardship Committee