



Let Your Light Shine—Part One

Matthew 28:18-20

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Objective Sentence: Everyone should reach out to others because of the Biblical reasons that God reveals concerning His feelings and the fate of people.

Introduction: In April of 1992 I ministered for five nights in Bedford, Indiana my hometown. The Lord blessed wonderfully, and the church was filled every service. Judy came to the meeting. Sam Hall and Kay Weldon, two classmates, were there every night. My sister Rita came and committed her life to the Lord. Tommy Ramey came to the services. Steve Deckard, whom I had not seen in over 20 years, came. Joe Kirkman, the detective who filed papers in court saying that I was a delinquent, came to one of the meetings. Sheriff Levi Hatfield, who transported me back from Florida after I ran away the first time, came. His wife was there also. She used to give us gospel literature and talk to us about the Lord when we served time in the jail. Danny May's aunt came. Through her, I got Danny's phone number, and we talked about old times. I shared with him what happened to me on 14th Street and how my life had changed. He later wrote me after I dropped by and visited him in 1993: *Dear Danny, I'm very happy your life turned out so well. I enjoyed your book. As I read it, I thought of my own experiences on drugs. I did a lot of LSD in the past, but I didn't have the same feelings you did. I often think about God and changing my ways. I know that I have to, and I'm working on it. It will happen, but not overnight. I see most of the guys you knew pretty often. I see Joe Pat Mason, Charlie Reynolds, Joe Hancock, and Tony Allen all the time. I've always considered you a friend. I still remember all the things we did when we were younger, and I'm not proud of them. I'm really proud of you, Danny, and I wish you only the best. I'm trying very hard to get my life in order. Believe me, you are an inspiration. I bet we could get together and write a book that would scare a lot of people. Hope to see you soon. Danny May Died 2 year later of a brain aneurism*

Read Matthew 5:13-16 We are the salt—the seasoning and preservative of the earth. The church is the hope of the world.

I. People are the closest thing to God's heart (Jn. 3:16...)

- A. *Tommy Tenney; The God Chasers*: The true purpose of God’s presence manifesting in our lives is evangelism. If we can carry a residue of God’s glory ... into our homes and businesses, if we can carry even a faint glow of His lingering presence into our ... churches, then we won’t have to beg people to come to the Lord in repentance. They will run to the altar when His glory breaks their bondage (and they can’t come any other way). *Pastor Dan*: God presence is for the purpose of preparing us to reach others.
1. **God values people** (*Matt. 25:31-40* *When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. ³⁴“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵For I was hungry ..., I was thirsty ..., I was a stranger, ³⁶... you clothed me, I was sick ... , I was in prison ... , ³⁷“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we ... feed you, ... give you something to drink? ³⁸When did we ... invite you in, ... and clothe you? ³⁹When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ ⁴⁰“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.)*
- a. *Pastor Dan*: Somewhere in time and eternity God looked into the mirror of His need and decided our existence. God needs people; they reflect a part of Him that longs to be touched and loved.
- b. *Pastor Dan*: We are God’s creation and He values us more than any other thing He possesses; even more than the angels. I know that to be a fact because of the price He paid for us. The only possession equal to the value God ascribes to mankind is His very own life. *Webster* defines value as the amount considered to be a suitable equivalent for something. God esteemed his very own life as the only suitable equivalent representing the value he placed upon mankind. It was not an angel, or the universe or any other thing.
- c. *David Mays; Our First Priority*: We commonly think of the purpose of the Church is three-dimensional: upward in worship, prayer, listening and obedience; inward in nurture, edification and fellowship. And finally, outward in service, ministry evangelism and missions.
- d. **Luke 4:18** The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to *the* poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to *the* captives and recovery of sight to *the* blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed. To proclaim the day of the Lord favor has come.
- e. *Tenney; The God Chasers*: In my church, I nudge the people over and over and tell them, “If you want the anointing, tell someone about Jesus.” After all, everyone knows we’re in a battle for souls with Satan. And battle with the devil requires the anointing. I am convinced that if anyone or any church stops serving—stops essentially telling someone about Jesus—the anointing will leave.
- g. *Portraits of Vision; Tommy Barnett*: Great churches are soul-winning churches. Our people have a magnificent obsession—and that is to win souls to Jesus Christ.
2. **God loves people** (**Jn. 3:17** *God sent not ... to condemn*)

- a. *Dick Eastman:* Our supreme purpose is to glorify God and our supreme task is to evangelize the lost.
- b. *Oswald Chambers:* It matters not how spiritual a church may profess to be, if souls are not saved, something is radically wrong, and the professed spirituality is simply a false experience, a delusion of the devil. People who are satisfied to meet together simply to have a good time among themselves are far away from God. Real spirituality always has an outcome.
- c. *Pastor Dan:* In June of 1990 I went to the printer and picked up a thousand copies of 14th Street. That was one of the most exciting moments of my life. At the next service I conducted at the the Adult Detention Center in Tulsa, Ok. I gave out several books to each of the inmates and asked them to pass them out to the other inmates. That day I witnessed to a number of people that I had never saw or got to see.
- d. **Matt. 28:18-20** (Great Commission) Go to the world
- e. **Mk. 12:31** love your neighbor as yourself
- f. **Matthew 5:13-16** let you light shine
- g. *Pastor Dan:* *Not everyone is going to accept you because you bother them.*
Wayne Lambeth: Danny whenever you used to visit me or when I saw you, and knew that you were really changed, I would have to go off and drink more and do more drugs than normal so I could forget what I was seeing. I was always proud of you for giving your life to Christ but I never told you. The reason I never told you was that if I admitted that I was proud of you, then I was also admitting that I was ashamed of myself.

Closing and Invitation: Billy Spangler's letter *Hey, Man! I got your package today. I have so much to say to you that I don't know where to begin. I was lying here in my cell sleeping this afternoon. I slept through mail call because after all these years in prison, mail don't mean that much anymore. Anyway, when I woke up, your package was lying on the floor of my cell. I picked it up and thought, There's no way, man, that this can be the same Danny Turpin that wandered away from us that night so many years ago and never came back.... I remember very clearly the night we all dropped acid at that little apartment. With much interest I read your story, The Miracle on 14th Street. We heard about what happened to you that night, and I was very anxious to hear your story and what really happened. I was there, I was a part of it, and I needed to know what happened to you. Of course we heard that you were found on your knees praying in that yard, and like a lot of other people, I just assumed that the acid had pushed you over the edge and you had lost your mind. After reading your story, I feel that I owe you an apology for thinking that, because you clearly are not crazy. ... you said several people from the past have surfaced. I'm here to tell you that by getting in touch with me, you have just made contact with the worst one of the bunch. By no means am I proud of my life. Altogether, I have been locked up 11 years, and I haven't seen the streets since this last time when I was sentenced to 20 years for house burglary. I am sick and tired and beaten down by this life. I get out again in 1993, but after 10 straight years of this, I'm afraid I won't be able to function out there. That's why I would like to hear more about how you were able to turn your life around. Sure, I have heard a lot of stories over the years of people who have found God. But I never paid much attention to them, thinking that stuff can't be real. But after reading your story and seeing the big change in you, it makes me stop and wonder that maybe there is something to it because actually knowing you and knowing that you were just as lost and corrupt as any of us makes it*

somehow seem different. ... if there was ever anybody anywhere that was ready for a change, it's me. I think I'm ready to start searching for what you found because I am so fed up with this. Could it be possible that God sent you to me for a reason? Does He want to save me too? I don't know why else you would contact me after all these years ... I know that I am a pretty hopeless case but if anybody needs help, it's me.