

I was reading a devo on Friday and it really stopped me in my tracks. Sometimes God just speaks SO powerfully it almost takes my breath away. Friday morning was one of those days. **"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

I've always really liked this verse. It's such a good reminder that we are literally an earthly display of Jesus' love and light to others. I sometimes tell kids at retreats that they might be the only way someone sees Jesus that weekend. Or to my kids on mission trips that they are a physical representation of Jesus to everyone they encounter. We are literally Christ on display in our world.

What really struck me this week was that Jesus is calling us the light of the world, but he also calls himself the same thing in John 8:12!

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

This is the only time in scripture that He calls us the same thing that He calls Himself. How absolutely AMAZING is that?!

"So who is the light of the world, Jesus or us? The answer is the same! Jesus is, so we are! We shine

His

light. We are the light of the world because Jesus' light shines in us."

Oh my goodness. Jesus uses us to shine His light to others. His light shines through us. We are the light of the world because *He* is inside of us. How empowering is that thought?!

Go shine today, people. Be the light of the world! Live like you are in the light, and like you *are* the light, because you are!