BIBLE - INFLUENCE

MATTHEW 5:13-16 – TEXT

**INTRODUCTION** – Many people in the world today deny the responsibility of being a role model or having any responsibility for molding people by their example. There could be nothing further from the truth. We are indeed building some type of reputation or have some degree of influence whether it is for good or bad. I.E. – NFL athletes We do not need to underestimate the power of our example and influence.

Definition of influence – to exert, to impel, to move, to affect by intangible means.

All people have influence whether it is good or bad.

All possess influence whether rich or poor, young or old, weak or strong.

Influence is something that can change from good to evil or evil to good.

In a spiritual sense we want to have a positive influence as Christians – **MATT. 5:13-16**

The purpose of this lesson is for us to really consider the value of our influence.

***INFLUENCE:***

## VALUE OF OUR INFLUENCE -

## PROV. 22:1 – A good name is something that we should desire. Our parents gave us a name what have we done with it since they gave it to us.

## ECCL. 7:1 – Do we realize a good name is valuable. If we do then we need to think about our influence.

## MATT. 5:13-14 – Are we salt? Do we preserve the name we wear (Christian) with our influence or do we destroy it?

## MATT. 5:16 – What is the purpose of influence? So that others may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven.

# HOW DO WE INFLUENCE OTHERS? –

# MATT. 12:34-35 – In what we say. Can we control our speech when we are upset?

# PHIL. 1:27 – In what we do. Do we truly live in such a way that we are striving for the faith of the gospel? Are we walking by faith? – 2 COR. 5:7

# JN. 13:34-35 – In how we love. Do we truly have love for our brethren and compassion for the problems that others encounter in life?

# JAMES 2:18 – In the faith we have. Is it something we just talk about but never seem to actually get around to doing something for others?

# LUKE 10:27 – In the spirit we manifest. Do we truly have love for others? Do we have the ability to put others ahead of ourselves?

# 1 PET. 1:15 – In how godly or ungodly we are. Are we truly holy – sanctified set apart to do the will of God in our life? We are commanded to be holy and if we are we will surely be able to influence others.

# INFLUENCE WILL LIVE ON AFTER DEATH –

1. **HEB. 11:4** – Able was dead yet his influence lived on and still remains today. We are still telling the story of these two brothers one who respected the authority of God and one who rebelled. Influence can live on whether positive or negative.
2. **REV. 14:13** – Our works follow us after death so we can see the importance of having a good influence or reputation.
3. **EPH**. **6:1-3** – The life of the parents lives on in their children so bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.
4. **DEUT**. **11:18-23** – Be the major influence in the life of your child. Influence on our children will live on.
5. **JN**. **15:8-16** – If we want to influence our friends then we must be known by our fruits.

**CONCLUSION –** The people of the world see our every move and they are watching to see if we live in our lives daily as what we proclaim to be – Christian.

What is my influence for the Lord?

Is it strong or weak?

Good or bad?

Is it light or darkness?

I am either drawing people to the Lord or running them away from Him. If my influence is not as strong as it should be or as strong as it use to be then repent today while the Lord gives you the time and opportunity.

If you realize the only influence you have ever been is a bad one then you can begin with the help of the Savior to have a good influence. In order to influence others for good you must get rid of your sin. – **MATT. 11:28-30**