

Intro: **Ralph Walker** – pink tie, 3x5 card, walks the isles! (None sleep – all Bibles open!) Port Arthur in 2014 – Sermon from Acts 5:12-16 – A powerful visual! Read **Acts 5:12-16** – Demonstrate the scene – the shadow falling on the people. Christ's miraculous light shined on Peter and the projection of Peter changed lives.
Shadow – The projection upon others created by the light that shines on you.

1) Influence is mostly Unconscious – It is going on all the time. You much notice your shadow – you nor others likely do – but it is almost always there. (**Acts 4:36-37** – Barnabas casting shadow of encouragement)
(**Gal. 2:10-14**) – *A moment of weakness – but it cast a shadow – people were affected.*
Positive or negative, when someone else is in the room, you are casting a shadow.
(Ex – behavior at work / attire and desire at worship / kids listening to your words)

2) Influence is often Valuable – We don't all have smooth words, great evangelistic skills, or superb Bible knowledge. We all have influence.
No man is an island – Our choices matter – (**Romans 14:7,13,15**)
If it was just about the Word, God would drop Bibles from the sky. But it is us!
(Ex – Attitude about less than ideal situations / Effort to make worship a big deal)

3. Influence is almost Immortal – (**Hebrews 11:4**) – Though dead he still speaks. *How many Bible characters still have influence in your life- how many from your past?*
Some people cast a long shadow... in fact, we all do. We call it LEGACY and it is intangible but real. (**II Peter 1:12-15**) – Peter's efforts, words, letters... would still have impact even after he was gone!
(Ex – Daily routine / your language / your priority / worship habits – *people will references for decades!*)

4) Influence is often Permanent – This is where the story of Peter is more vital than just considering your shadow – his walk past those people that day changed their lives forever. It was a permanent imprint. It was awesome. After Peter died, those people would still be healed.
Not all stories are so great (I Kings 21:

So, to sum up: you are casting a shadow - whether you know it or not, both during every day of your life and in that days that will follow your life, sometimes in ways that will change people forever and perhaps even generations to follow. It just seems like we should be a people very intentional and spiritual in every WORD we say, every EMOTION we express, and every ACTION we take! Amen?

But I need to add something here in our last few minutes – Some may be stressed out by this – look at the impact my choices have? I'm barely hanging on over here, trying to do what is right and you are adding the gravity of my impact on others now and forever to the mix! How can I handle that?!?!

Well, let's look at my shadow on the wall for a moment. It isn't real clear and it's cast in 3 directions. If I wanted to fix that – to make it one consistent image, sharp and defined, what could I do to make that happen – well, on my own, not much. At least, not between me and the wall. No, the difference is made in the way the Light shines on me. If I found a place where all of these 9 lights united into one beam, and I aligned myself with that, and I focused on that ... the shadow would take care of itself.

Do you want the shadow part to work out better this week – don't stress on that. Focus on this – on the LIGHT, on where the beams of Jesus are shining in your direction and align yourself with that.

Let's finish by looking at 4 Times John refers to Jesus as the Light of the World – find that, believe in that, align yourself with that – and watch. The shadow will become as natural as...well, a shadow.

John 1:1-5 – Christ made you. He breathed life into you. He brought the light of Life upon you!

John 8:3-4, 8-13 – Christ is mercy. He shines mercy upon others and upon you. The light of Mercy!

John 9:1-7 – Christ is power. He is the tangible shine of God's workings. The light of Power!

John 12:27-36 – Christ is sacrifice. He brought the bright hope that comes by the light of Sacrifice!

And yes, His influence by His very nature, while He was alive and dead, and with great permanence shines these Truths into the Life of His People! And such we should be, if only we will align with Him.

-- *Get up tomorrow and look to the light and pray about these four things, and your shadow will be fine.*