

Salt and Light

BIG IDEA:

Redemption is the tool that God uses to change the world. He has identified those who have experienced His grace as the means of revealing His glory.

Salt

Involves taste.

Detected by its absence.

If it be savorless, it is useless.

Salt manifests flat, tasteless, poor quality of things about it.

Unsuccessful, it is cast out and trodden down.

Meant for earth as a physical factor

Light

Involves sight.

Detected by its position (city on a hill)

If it be covered, it becomes destructive or goes out.

Shining light manifests its own good works.

Successful men glorify God.

Meant for the world as an intellectual factor.

Jim Elliot

In The Journals of Jim Elliot



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READ

Read Matthew 5:13-16 (pg. 23)

The people who follow Jesus are meant to be His salt to a world in need of flavor. Think about the last time you had fries without salt. I'm willing to say they were pretty bland and void of taste, right? Salt livens up food. Salt literally wakes up food from its slumber. Some foods need an extra kick of salt! You see salt, as a seasoning, adds a powerful flavor to anything it touches. But too much salt and you want to toss out the entire meal; because it's...you guessed it...salty. So you can have too much salt and too little salt, but to have no salt at all is an even greater fault. The wise and courageous person knows how much salt to use on his meal and uses it. The people who follow Jesus must become wise and courageous about using their God-given talents and gifts and voices to wake up the world from its slumber. When people get a taste of what the people of God are like then nothing else will satisfy their deepest craving.

Prepare

Jesus says in this passage that you ARE salt. That's a declaration. That's a statement. Do you know that you ARE salt and can add flavor to a dying world?

As followers of Jesus our purpose is to use our salt for a specific purpose. What is our purpose as salt in the hands of God?

Would your friends say that you are using too much salt, too little salt, no salt at all or just enough to serve the world?

Jesus says some harsh words here in this passage. "It [salt] is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled on..." Have you felt thrown out by God or the church or others? Could it be that you feel this way because you've not been salt to the world?

It seems that we can lose sight of our purpose. What can you suggest to others to find their purpose as the salt of God again?

Where do we go from here?

Pick up a packet of salt and carry it with you this week. Let it remind you that you are God's salt to be used for his purposes. Pray and ask God for guidance on where you might use the salt He's given to you for others.

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READ

Read Matthew 5:13-16 (pg. 23)

The people who follow Jesus are meant to be light in a world that is struggling to fight through the darkness. Today, when we want to light up a room we simply flip a switch and voila! There's light. When they wanted light in Jesus' day they lit fire to a cloth soaked in oil. There are three things you need to get a brilliant light to outshine the darkness in a room. 1) Oil – The Bible commonly uses oil to refer to the Holy Spirit. 2) A cloth – That's you and me. We're no good by ourselves, though. We need to be soaked in that oil if we're going to be of any good use. 3) Fire – Wanna guess what that is? ...Jesus; A touch from Jesus to be more precise. We'll call this touch from Jesus, salvation. Put these three things together and you will have a magnificent light. Now all you need to do is to put that lamp out in the open so others can see through their darkness and come to Jesus.

Prepare

Do you see our world as a dark place? How would you describe this darkness? What makes our world dark?

Darkness is the absence of light. Jesus called his followers, Light. In what ways are you being light in this dark world?

If you are not being light right now, what's stopping you from letting it out? Are you relying on the Holy Spirit or some other source for catching fire?

Light has a funny way of getting brighter when it's around other lights. Are you surrounding yourself with other lights? How are they helping you shine brighter in this world?

Where do we go from here?

Pray and ask the Lord to give you a list of ways you could be light to others in your neighborhood or to your classmates. If you are not reflecting the light of God, then ask the Lord to direct you by the Holy Spirit for what you should do next. That may mean repenting of trusting something other than God. That may mean asking the Lord to forgive you for hiding your light. That may mean you need to tell someone for the first time that you are a follower of Jesus.

Chapel Scripture

Thursday, September 16

MATTHEW 5:13-16 (NIV)

13”You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.

14”You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.
15Neither 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. 16In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

What we're singing

You are Here (the same power) by Hillsong London

“The same power that conquered the grave is in me.” This powerful truth ought to remind us that while we may seem distant from God, He has given us a power to overcome the world. Believers in Christ, by His Spirit, have the very power of God to access as we navigate our lives. Remember that the real power of God is evident in the transforming of His people internally. He is here, within you, empowering you.

Notes:

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READ

Read Matthew 5:13-16 (pg. 23)

The people who follow Jesus are meant to be a city on a hill that stands out from the world and its ways. If only one thing can be said from this passage it's this...we were made for the glory of God and the good of others. It is a great privilege and great responsibility to share Jesus with the world. Our salt and our light are not meant for our own self gratification. Our motivation should be to praise our Father who chose us, saved us and gave us our identity. Two reasons keep Christians from being a city on hill: false humility and fear. Some Christians, including myself, have been timid about letting other people see the good deeds we have done in Christ, for fear of the appearance of pride. However, as long as we attribute the source of all things to God, we should boldly proclaim the good works God has done in our lives and through our lives. No one will say—What a great guy or girl you are. People will proclaim—What a great God you serve!!

Reflect

What has Jesus shown you this week about who you are in Him?

Write the names of three people you know need Jesus. What can you do to share Jesus with them?

Is pride or fear your challenge with letting your light shine? Something else?

God is committed to shining through you. Read Matthew 5:13-16 again and this time replace you and your with [your name]. Read it aloud. You are salt. You are light. You are a city on a hill.

Where do we go from here?

Pray Father, teach us the difference between false humility and fear. Don't let us hide our light under a bowl. Bring praise to yourself by shining through us. In Jesus name. Amen.