

JUST A LITTLE GOES A LONG WAY

(Matt 5: 13-16)

All messages have a starting point

Alto Coffee shop in Mornington...met a friend there every Tues morning

One morning probably 2 years ago.....2 guys entered....window cleaners.

Spotted my friend came over...worship at same Church

Something about these 2 guys that touched me deeply (Expand)

I was using crutchesI felt them want to tune in to where I was at

They asked the right questions with real compassion

Did not talk about others who fallen and broken their Femur.

They listened

Then my friend asked you must start early.....yes 6am at Church for prayer

They then started cleaning the windows.....I said "What a living testimony to Matt 5. My friend and myself were deeply touched (Expand)

Read Matt 5: 13-16

You are the salt of the earth.

But if the salt loses it's saltiness, how can it be made salty again?

It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.

You are the light of the world.

A city on a hill cannot be hidden.

Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl...instead they put it on a 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 praise your Farther in heaven.

How can we make an impact on our world that is lost?

To make a lasting impact on a darkened world Jesus puts it very simply...You are the salt of the earth...You are the light of the world.

Don't miss the emphatic "You" in both statements...You..You..You..You

Jesus I am statements: I am the bread of life...I am the resurrection and the life...I am the light of the world.

It's not just for the one who is ordained....it is for everyone.

Every one of us in Gods family is to be shaking salt and shining light.

Slowly but surely our world is rotting from within and the decay of morals is frightening.

Watching TV news, reading the News Paper....I feels the edges of darkness closing in.

Slowly but surely our world is rotting from within....a lot of good things....advances in technology....medical care.

The worse our world becomes, the greater is its need of salt.

Salt also makes you thirsty.

In the case of the salty Christian, it makes the surrounding world thirsty for the very water of life.

I'm not just talking about huge piles of salt (evangelistic crusade) I'm talking about consistent, everyday, lifestyle things.

Salt has a preserving effect. In other words, it arrests corruption.

Salt also adds flavor to food. Just a little shake of salt can dramatically change the taste of a dish. Its most valuable contribution is the "bite" it gives to food.

Yet Jesus said that it can become "tasteless". What did he mean?

When salt becomes contaminated by dirt, sand, and other impurities, Jesus said it does a poor job.

The worse our world becomes, the greater is the need for salt.

Do you create a thirst for those you come in contact with...I ask myself the same question

Is there some kind of "salty magnet" that draws people to you? (Myself?)

If your words reflect God's Grace people will be drawn to you (People here)

People who live in the darkness not only need salt, they also need light.

What is the purpose of light? The answer is not complicated. Light dispels darkness.

Have you ever experienced complete, utter darkness?

Share story out floundering with mates. (Expand)

To much light to be horded. Jesus says shine your light into the darkness; that's where it is really needed.

Different individuals with diverse personalities, strengths, and weaknesses, will display his light with varying intensities.

But it's genuine light all the same, and our darkened world can never have too much.

There has never been a better opportunity out there to show to a struggling world...don't hide your light let it shine.

Jesus put it this way.

"A city on a hill cannot be hidden" You couldn't hide it if you tried. Your light is on the hill.

It doesn't say, "You can be the salt," or you should be the light. It says you are.

Shake the salt....shine the light.

Simple though it may seem, that is the game plan has set up for counteracting a world that...."Lies in the lap of the darkness"

When you live in the darkness, you not only have no ray of light, you don't even know where home is.

That is the way it is for the majority of the world.

Remember how Jesus put it.

"A city on a hill cannot be hidden" You couldn't hide it if you tried. Your light is on the hill.

It's amazing how light attracts. (Share 2 young men in coffee shop)

Don't make it complicated` Jesus says,"Simply let your light shine" Isn't that easy....Just let it shine.

No need to add extra voltage....no need to make a giant public announcement proclaiming "I walk in the light".....just shine.

Jesus never said to his disciples"You know fellas we have to work on gathering a better crowd....it was never like that.

He just turned on the light and people came to Him. In the wilderness...Or in the city...On a hillside...At the lakeside. They came.

He was so different....He was light....and so are we.

What will they see?

They will see “your good works” Jesus said. Like what?

They will hear your courtesy.

They will detect your smile. (Expand)

They will notice that you stopped to thank them.

They will hear you apologize when you are wrong

Erin: “Christians are to be the happiest people on earth”

Listening to the heart felt pleas of someone who is really struggling. (Salt)

Roly great message on Listening (Luke 8)

Consider carefully how you listen...with your eyes...with our body language...with our emotions

They will notice that you are the one who stopped along the road and gave them a hand.

They will see every manifestation of Christ’s life being normally lived out through you.

They will see you bringing out the best in others. (Expand)

Last year Roly - You are the people of God clothe yourself with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

Be tolerant with one another with one another...a time to respect one another. (Expand)

Listening to the heart beat of a suffering friend and taking time to pray right there.

Listening is the most important relational skill a person can develop.

Paying attention is the most valuable currency we have.

I sometimes think how splendid it would be if a non-Christian curious to discover the secret of our brightness...came up to us and enquire.

Why are you like that? What a blessing that would be. (2 Guys Coffee Shop)

Some of you here this morning life has not been easy....what a blessing you have been (Expand)

When you shake and shine you influence others.

As Christians we have the privilege of leaving a long trail of light as we touch for Christ those lives around us.

Don't hold back. When you live the life of faith consistently, you will attract the attention of those in the darkness, you will cultivate a thirst in those who are living tasteless, hopeless lives.

And when they start asking questions, you will have a perfect opportunity to tell them about the sauce of the salt and light.

Jesus has chosen you and me to be salt and light to make a difference in the lives of other people

Roly: "But we cannot shine if the inner person is not right."

Out of tune with God.

Martin: Living in God's plan.

"We are not to be people who set up camp and wait for people to come to us...we are to be active in going out making the most of every opportunity"

You don't judge the strength of a church on its seating capacity, but by its sending capacity.

Darkness is closing in and people are simply lost.

For many out there the tide is rising and they are struggling in complete darkness.

The light on the hill must shine brightly

Don't make it complicated, simply let your light shine...no need for extra voltage...you have all the power you need.

With Him as the power source we're to shine in whatever capacity we can.

Different individuals with diverse personalities, strengths, and weaknesses, will display His light with varying intensities.

But it's genuine light in a darkened world that will bring people to Jesus.

Do people feel alive when they are around you?

The brilliance of God's character is to be displayed through our lives.

We are called to go out into a world and attract the attention of those who are living in

the darkness...go out and create a hunger and a thirst for those living tasteless, hopeless lives.

People who are salt and light are friends of grace.

The tide is coming in (Expand)

Read Matt 5 from Message.

“Let me tell you why you are here

You are here to be salt-seasoning, that brings out the God-flavors of this earth.

If you loose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness?

Here’s another way to put it

You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world

God is not a secret to be kept

We’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill.

If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you?

I’m putting you on a light stand

Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand...shine!

Keep open house, be generous with your lives. (People who not Christian)

We need to be in close relationship with people who don’t know or believe.

The good news is that we don’t have to go far to find opportunities to be salt or light.

No matter where God sprinkles us, grace gives us the means and love gives us the motive to live salty lives.

Let me tell me why you are here (Msg)

You are the salt of the earth...that brings out the God flavours.

You are the light of the world...that brings out the God colours.

If you remember nothing else from this message, remember these

PRAYER