

Be Different: Living the Ethics of Jesus 3. Be Influential

Matthew 5:13-16 (TNIV)

“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 underfoot.

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 others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Mateo 5:13-14 (NVI)

"Ustedes son la sal de la tierra. Pero si la sal se vuelve insípida, ¿cómo recobrará su sabor? Ya no sirve para nada, sino para que la gente la deseche y la pisotee.

¹⁴ "Ustedes son la luz del mundo. Una ciudad en lo alto de una colina no puede esconderse. ¹⁵ Ni se enciende una lámpara para cubrirla con un cajón. Por el contrario, se pone en la repisa para que alumbre a todos los que están en la casa. ¹⁶ Hagan brillar su luz delante de todos, para que ellos puedan ver las buenas obras de ustedes y alaben al Padre que está en el cielo.

We influence by *Influenciamos*

1. **Accepting our identity as salt and light.**

aceptando nuestra identidad como la sal y luz.

It is said of St Francis not merely that he prayed, but that he became a prayer. Such lives must be reborn today if the life of the Eternal Love is to break through the heavy encrustations of our conventional church life and apostolic life, love and power be restored to the church. God can break through any time we are really willing.
–Thomas Kelly

2. **Understanding our assignment to the world.**

Entendiendo nuestra asignación en el mundo.

“It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.”
Isaiah 49:6

3. **Living our mission as God-reflectors.**

Viviendo nuestra misión como diós-reflectores.

While Christians are not challenged to *become* salty... they are challenged to *stay* salty, that is, they are challenged to be real Christians. –Dale Bruner

We believe all followers of Jesus, not just ordained ministers, are called to participate in the work of ministry and mission in the world as the “priesthood of all believers” using their spiritual gifts, heart, abilities, personalities and experiences to demonstrate the gospel in word and deed.

(1 Cor. 12:27; 2 Cor. 5:18) **SPBC Core Beliefs: Mission**

All scripture is Today's New International Version and Nueva Versión Internacional

SBPC Sermon-Based Small Groups Week of October 1, 2006

Be Different: Living the Ethics of Jesus

Part 3: *Be Influential*—Matthew 5:13-16

REFLECT ON IT – Personal preparation prior to Small Group meeting

- Take time to slowly and meditatively read Matthew 5:13-16. Try each of the following exercises at separate times. Each time identifying a different situation.
- Visualize a specific area of darkness in your life and imagine what it would look like illuminated by the light of Christ. Invite Christ into that situation to dispel the darkness.
- Visualize an area of darkness in our world and pray for God to use you as a light. Pray for your ability to shine the light of truth into that place as an influence for Christ.

START IT – Connecting with each other

- Who has been the greatest influence in your life (besides Jesus)? How?
- What brought you to this church? How long have you been here?

STUDY IT – Matthew 5:3-12 - Read the passage aloud

- What new insights have you gained from this week's scripture or message?
- How are the Beatitudes related to Jesus' words about salt and light? Identify one situation where applying a Beatitude would produce "salt" and "light."
- What is the difference between your "light" and your "good deeds"?
- How does being a light compliment being salt?
- Read the D. Bruner and T. Kelly quotes aloud. How do they support this week's Scripture? Do you think our church is "really willing" to let God break in and influence us?
- Read the SBPC Core Belief Statement on Mission. In what way are you (or would you like to) "participate in the work of ministry and mission"? How can you encourage one another to explore new opportunities of service?

LIVE IT – Applying the truth of Scripture to life

- Make plans with your group to do a "salt and light" project. Check out the service opportunities on the SBPC Small Group website, or find one of your own.
- It is easier to study God's word than to put it into practice. In groups of three (not spouse) share: how are you doing at being salt and light (honestly)?
- Share a specific situation in your life where you could be an influence. How is your life currently an influence for ministry and mission? Commit to praying for one another every day this week.

PRAY IT – Supporting one another through care and prayer

- **Application:** Ask for God's help in applying today's passage to your life.
- **Ministry (within the church):** Pray for the All Church Retreat Team as they prepare all the various aspects of the retreat. Pray that this would be an extraordinary experience of community for our church.
- **Mission (in the world):** Pray for the Melkonians in Morocco. It's Ramadan, a month where they will be invited to many celebrations at the homes of Muslim neighbors who fast during the day and feast at night. Pray for opportunities to share the hope of Christ.