

Be Salt and Light

Intro

- Super Bowl Sunday!
- Entering our 5th week of our series 'The Great Invite'
- Our scene changed last week from Jesus calling the disciples to Jesus training his disciples
- Sermon on the Mount where he instructs his followers who have come to hear him speak and heal
- Last week= #Blessed
 - blessed in order to be a blessing
 - Tough opening message from Jesus to his followers
 - Everyone blessed not just the rich, good looking, etc
 - Do you hear the message?
 - Can you hear Jesus saying, *You Are Blessed?*
 - Challenged to use #BlessedatEbenezerUMCJefferson
 - Only two people= Evelyn and I
- This week= Be Salt and Light

Matthew 5:13-20 ESV

"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Body

1. Story of being a doer
 - a. I'm a doer
 - b. Chris Duke and
 - i. Football vandalism
 - ii. 8th grade dance
 1. Balloons from ceiling
 - c. Coach Vincent

2. Doers

- a. Lots of people
- b. Americans
- c. Work Ethic
- d. Doing isn't necessarily wrong
 - i. James 1:22 ESV "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."
 - ii. Jesus tells us that he came not to abolish the law but to fulfill it
 - iii. Law is about doing
 - iv. Righteous living following the commandments of God
 - 1. Do's and don'ts are important
 - 2. Thou shall not's
 - v. Need law so that we know what to do and not do

3. Disciples

- a. Jesus is saying disciples is more about Being and not Doing
- b. Uncertain times
 - i. Jesus' time
 - 1. Theological change
 - a. Religious ideas
 - 2. Social change
 - a. Rulers, kings, governors
 - b. Rebellions
 - 3. Temple gone
 - 4. Parties and factions within Judaism at odds
 - a. Pharisees
 - b. Sadducees
 - c. Scribes
 - d. Zealots
 - e. Essenes
 - 5. Present unstable and future uncertain
 - ii. Today
 - 1. Enormous theological and social change
 - a. Rulers
 - b. Rebellion
 - 2. Christian faith in decline
 - 3. Future of the UMC?
 - 4. Congregations shrinking and disbanding
 - 5. Church buildings being sold
 - 6. Church is becoming diverse and different
 - a. House churches
 - b. Etc
 - 7. Present unstable and future uncertain
- c. Questions

- i. How are we as disciples to be in this situation?
 - ii. How are we to live?
 - iii. How are we to practice our faith?
 - iv. How are we to share it with others?
- d. Jesus says
- i. Salt
 - 1. Romans 12:2 ESV “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”
 - 2. Intensifying the flavor of the world around us
 - 3. Make the world better, it should be better because we are in it
 - 4. Christian Action
 - 5. Servants
 - a. Jesus said he “came to serve not be served” (paraphrase mine)
 - ii. Light
 - 1. John 8:12 ESV “Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.””
 - 2. Shining God’s grace into the despair and fear that people feel
 - 3. Lighthouse
 - a. According to the National Park Service a lighthouse is a tower with a bright light at the top, located at an important or dangerous place regarding navigation (travel over water). The two main purposes of a lighthouse are to serve as a navigational aid and to warn boats of dangerous areas. It is like a traffic sign on the sea.
 - b. Navigational aid
 - i. To help guide ships
 - ii. Draw people in
 - c. Warning
 - i. Danger is present
 - d. How we are to be a lighthouse
 - i. Beacon Not Blowhorn
 - 1. Draw people to Jesus
 - ii. Warn
 - 1. Not gloom and doom
 - 2. Consequences
 - 4. Give light in darkness, Ebenezer at night
 - 5. Light that draws people to it, not a flashlight in the eyes
 - iii. Goodness to be obvious
 - 1. To the outside world (Family, work, Community, etc.)

- 2. Not as a pat on the back
 - a. Me and Health class
 - iv. Our presence
 - 1. Should be the very presence of God's love and grace is felt by others
- e. Church
 - i. Get caught up in the 'do'
 - ii. Forget/ignore importance of 'be'
 - iii. Questions
 - 1. What does it mean to **be** a disciple?
 - 2. How do we as disciples let God's light shine through us?
 - 3. How do our lives enhance the flavor of God's love in the world?
 - 4. Answer these in the **BE**
 - a. Role not to do
 - b. Role
 - i. Comforting presence
 - ii. Listen if they need to talk
 - iii. Offer prayer
 - iv. Not=force religious views or political views
 - v. Isn't our job to bring someone to relationship it's Christ
- f. Evangelism
 - i. Winston Worrell
 - ii. Sharing our faith

Conclusion

- 1. Saving Power of Jesus Christ
 - a. Best way to witness
 - i. Be transparent and open windows through which love that comes from the heart of God can freely pass
- 2. Come to table
 - a. Spirit of gratitude
 - b. Giving thanks to God for planting the seeds of grace in their hearts
 - c. Calling them to be disciples of Jesus
 - d. Praying that through them the light of God's grace may shine brightly upon someone who needs to know Christ's saving love

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Pastor: Salty, light-bearing, seekers after righteousness, all who love Christ and seek peace with one another, all who know the power of Christ's forgiving love, come to this sacrifice of

thanksgiving, this meal at Christ's own table. Come as you are. Come to be changed. Come, offering peace to one another, and your gifts to God.

Passing of the Peace

Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Light of the world is among us.

People: **Yes, he is.**

Pastor: The Spirit has seasoned us.

People: **We lift our lives and our voices in justice and praise.**

Pastor: Praise our Triune God with me!

People: **Honor and glory and wisdom and might
are yours forever!**

Pastor: Honor and glory and wisdom and might are yours, Holy Triune God, Life-Speaker, Law-Giver, Deliverer, Savior, and Lord of all. Your love illumines the universe. Your infinity multiplies the colors, sounds, smells, textures, and tastes with joys that fill our senses beyond all overflowing. The diversity of your radiance exceeds all knowing. In awe and love we join our voices with angels and saints, martyrs and cherubim, with those who came before us, and the generations that will follow, in words ancient and ever new:

People: **Holy Holy Holy Lord God of every power, the universe declares your glory from everlasting to everlasting. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is Christ who has come in your name. Hosanna in the highest!**

Pastor: Pure brightness of the Everliving One, Jesus Christ, holy and blessed, to you we turn, before you we bow, behind you we follow, with you we go into the world, salt and light, fulfilling your law of love toward God and neighbor, family and stranger, enemy and friend.

People: **Lead us, Lord.**

Pastor: You have taught us the way of love in your life, in your death, and in your rising. And you have shown us such love in the meal you first shared with your disciples on the night you were betrayed. You took bread and blessed it, broke it and gave it to them, saying,

All: **Take this now and eat. This is my body broken for you. Do this to remember me.**

Pastor: You took the cup of wine and gave thanks, then passed it to them, saying:

All: **Drink from this, each one of you. This is my blood for a new covenant that delivers the world from the power of sin and death. Do this to remember me.**

Pastor: Obeying his command, Triune God, and looking for his return at the last day, we offer

here ourselves, with this bread and this cup, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving for all you have done and will do to save us.

All: Receive our prayers, our gifts, and us.

Pastor: Even so, come, Holy Spirit, upon us and these gifts. Make them be for us a sharing in Christ's body and blood, and make us, receiving them, his body for the world. And make us one: With you, with each other, in ministry and mission to the world, and in joyful anticipation of that day when we shall feast at the heavenly banquet of Christ's final victory. We give you all the praise and glory, Holy God, Source, Sustenance and Crown of All, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Thanksgiving after Communion

All: Eternal One, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Now send us forth in the strength of the Spirit to be salt and light, enlivening and illumining every corner with your truth and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing

1. You are the salt of the earth
2. You are the light of the world
3. Time to 'live salty'
4. Time to keep your light shining 24/7/365
5. Questions
 - a. What ways can you **BE** salt?
 - b. What ways can you **BE** light?