

Readings

Scripture

¹³ “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.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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.”

- Matthew 5:13-16 (*English Standard Version*)

Reflection

The sixteenth-century English bishop, Hugh Latimer, was one of the first preachers of social righteousness in the English-speaking world. He was imprisoned for his courage and enunciations. While in the Tower of London, he wrote, “Pray for me, I say pray for me; at times I am so afraid that I could creep into a mouse hole.” This was the same Latimer who later walked bravely to the stake in Oxford, saying to his companion, Nicholas Ridley, as he went, “Play the man, Master Ridley; we shall this day light such a candle, by God’s grace in England, as I trust shall never be put out.”

- G. Curtis Jones, *1000 Illustrations for Preaching and Teaching* (p. 80)

“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.”

-Theodore Roosevelt, *The Man in the Arena*

“There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry: ‘Mine!’”

- James D. Bratt, *Abraham Kuyper: A Centennial Reader* (p. 488)

Sermon Outline

You are...
Matthew 5:13-16

And His Disciples Came to Him
Matt Uldrich

You are salt

- Accentuates the flavor
- Preserves food
- Creates thirst

You are light

- Be seen because it is who you are
 - Shine because you are light
 - » Darkness is the absence of light
- Don’t hide, it’s not who you are

Gospel of Grace: Jesus’ indwelling presence makes you salt and light

Reflection Questions (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- Read Matthew 5:1-16.
 - What three foods must you put salt on to enjoy?
 - In what ways do you bring “Christ-like saltiness” to your family, friends, and co-workers?
- When are you most tempted to not let the light of Christ shine through you to a dark world?
 - What happens in your head or heart that keeps you from shining brightly?
 - Is there a person, circumstance, or experience that temptation is tied to?
- In what ways do verses 13-16 relate to verses 2-12? (How do you see them connected?)