

The Salt and Light Company

Matthew 5:13-16

- I. **As Christians we have a unique role to play as salt and light in the earth.**
 - A. God blesses our country with grace and mercy because of us—His children.
 1. It is not the will of God that the judgment due the wicked should come upon the righteous (Genesis 18:20-33).
 2. Example: There were approximately 10,000 persons in Sodom; ten righteous people would have kept the city from being destroyed—essential business!
 - B. This doesn't mean Christians won't experience persecution (Matthew 5:10-12). However, we will never be included in God's judgment upon the wicked. In fact, we experience discipline from the Lord (as children) so we are not condemned with the rest of the world and included in their judgment (Psalm 91:1-16).

- II. **Three ways God uses Christians as salt and light in the earth (Colossians 4:2-6).**
 - A. God responds to our prayers (Colossians 4:2).
 1. We should pray that God opens doors for the Gospel to be preached and that we will proclaim it as boldly and clearly as we should (Colossians 4:3-4).
 2. We should pray "...for kings and all those in authority," because "This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth" (I Timothy 2:1-4).
 - B. As salt and light, we "make the most of every opportunity" to reveal Jesus (Col. 4:5).
 - C. We let our "conversation be always full of grace seasoned with salt" (Col. 4:6). Friendly conversations and kindness make us very appealing to others who don't know the Lord.
 - D. We should never lose our saltiness (our witness to others) (Matthew 5:13). We shine our light before others, and our good deeds glorify our Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16).

- III. **Releasing light to the world means that we purposely invest the Gospel and our resources in the darkest and weakest of places (Isaiah 61:1-4).**
 - A. Examples of weak places: the homeless, the drug-addicted, the jobless, the mentally ill, the sick, the elderly, children, poverty-stricken nations, and the brokenhearted.
 - B. Rebuilding the devastated places (Isaiah 61:4) is something we can all agree on, despite our political, racial, and economic differences.
 - C. What does it look like to rebuild the devastated places?
 1. Compassion—becoming people who will not walk on the other side of the road when we see a person in need (Luke 10:30-37).
 2. Faith—believing God will show us how to build one step at a time. You just have to get started ("Look, see, and do something about it" -Mother Teresa).
 3. Restoring devastated places requires an entire Spirit-filled community with their unique gifts, abilities, wisdom, experience, and background. Every gift counts. Everyone can shine their light.
 4. The deep needs of the homeless crisis: relationship with Jesus, a living space with peace, a job, a healing community of friends, and miracle power of Jesus.
 - D. Sowing seed among the weakest in our world is high-yield seed
 1. For the sower—provision and joy (Luke 6:38)
 2. For the progress of the Gospel in our city and in poverty-wracked places throughout the earth (Matthew 24:14).

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