



Sermon Questions

Date: *April 30, 2023* | Scripture: *Matthew 5:13-16 (Make a Difference)*

1. Read the passage from the sermon together. What do you find convicting? What do you find challenging? What do you find confusing?
2. Where in your life or in the world do you hope to make a difference?
3. What are the ways you are tempted to lose your saltiness—your distinctive Christian identity?
4. What are the ways you are tempted to hide your light—to withdraw from the darkness in the world to preserve yourself?
5. How does Jesus perfectly embody the call to be salt and light?
6. How has Jesus equipped you specifically to be salt and light? (Not just “The Holy Spirit,” but your particular gifts and stories and personality traits, etc.)

Inward Grace in Action

This passage sounds like it'd be fitting for a graduation commencement speech at a prestigious school. In reality, Jesus is addressing a crowd of ordinary, unremarkable people.

In our area it is easy to buy into the idea that you must be extraordinary. High schoolers in this area are told “You are the future leaders of this nation.” There are more terminal degrees in the DC metro area than anywhere else in the country. It is easy to believe the fate of the world depends on us making a difference at the highest levels.

Jesus' vision for discipleship is not like that. It is not the opposite reaction, demanding you sacrifice any position of power or influence to take up a lowly existence. Rather, Jesus calls his followers to ordinary faithfulness wherever they are in life. You don't have to be the top of your class or your company to make a difference. You must simply live according to who you are in Christ, seeking to halt decay and help those who are in darkness.

- Where has God positioned you in life to be salt and light?
- What does ordinary faithfulness look like in your context?

ACTION: Brainstorm one way you might live out ordinary faithfulness as a disciple of Christ this week.

WORSHIP THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Reflect on these Scriptures:

- Genesis 12:1-3
- Psalm 37
- Isaiah 2:1-5
- Matt 25:14-30
- Ephesians 5:1-21
- James 1:19-27

Serve: there are lots of opportunities to serve in our church family. [Click Here](#) to serve as a volunteer.

Pray for communicant's class as they finish their course and prepare to join our church as members, that their faith might grow through greater participation in our church.

Reach out if you need assistance:

- Call our church office at 703.821.0800
- Request aid from our Deacons' Fund at deaconsfund@mcleanpres.org