

# Salt and Light

As time goes on we are experiencing difficulty as followers of Jesus.

The more we believe and follow Jesus, the more we find ourselves at odds with the world around us.

The Bible tells us that if we are not aligned with the world that people will hate us!

John 15:18-21 (NIV) "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. [19] **If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.** [20] Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' **If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.** If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. [21] **They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me.**

- We don't belong to the world – we belong to a different kingdom
- The world will hate us because we are not APART of them
- They will persecute us- just like they persecuted Jesus
  - o **They will do this because they DON'T KNOW GOD**

Our Mission – BE SALT – BE LIGHT!!

Mat 5:13-16 (NIV) "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 town built on a hill cannot be hidden. [15] Neither 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. [16] **In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.**

- We exist on the earth to be **change agents**
  - o Salt – preserves, flavors, heals
    - Was one of the most valuable substances (Salary = Salt)
  - o Light – illuminates, warms, causes growth
    - Produces life, draws people together

**What are the Good Deeds Jesus Speaks of?**

**It's a very personal and pertinent practice**

1. The principles we live by
2. The words we speak
3. The actions we take

**WHAT DOES BEING SALT AND LIGHT MEAN FOR US?**

- **How can we be "CHANGE AGENTS"**
  
- **Does being Salt and Light mean telling People about Jesus?**
  - Does it mean asking them to believe in Jesus?
  - Does it mean going door to door?

**HOW DID JESUS CREATE CHANGE?**

- **Did Jesus ever ask people to accept Him as Lord and Savior?**
- **Jesus was SALT and LIGHT – then THEY WANTED TO ACCEPT HIM/ BELIEVE HIM!**

## JESUS SALT AND LIGHT PROCESS

### 1. He loves them by meeting them where they are

- Demonstrates Love by drawing close to them
- Asking questions, listening well

### 2. He meets their felt need by providing insight, healing or encouragement

- To disciples and pharisees he answers questions
- He prophesies to the woman at the well
- He heals the blind man

### 3. They see that He has love and healing & want it! (or fight against it)

- The pharisees try to crucify him
- The disciples followed him closely
- Those who are healed or receive prophetic insight are drawn to Him

### 4. He calls them to believe in Him and follow Him

- The BELIEVE in Him
- The woman at the well believes – told everyone about Him
- The man who was blind believes – tells others

## THE SALT AND LIGHT PLAN OF JESUS... Our Example

### HOW DID JESUS CREATE CHANGE?

#### 1) He Consistently demonstrated unconditional love

Jhn 13:34-35 (NKJV) A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. [35] By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

- The love that we have for one another is A PRIMARY CHANGE AGENT
  - o The First century believers changed the world with this
  - o When people see TRUE LOVE demonstrated it is SALT AND LIGHT
    - They want it... They don't want it if they can't see it
    - They don't want a DECISION – They want a life-giving way of living!

### HOW DID JESUS CREATE CHANGE?

#### 2) He consistently spoke the truth in love

Eph 4:15 (NIV) Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

- This is where we get into trouble
  - o Jesus spoke the full expression of GRACE AND TRUTH
    - He spoke truth that was comforting and encouraging
      - We will be loved and embraced for speaking GRACE
    - He spoke truth that was uncomfortable and irritating
      - We will be loved AND HATED for speaking Truth

### HOW DID JESUS CREATE CHANGE?

#### 3) He consistently cared for and served others

Mat 23:11-12 (NIV) The greatest among you will be your servant. [12] For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

- Jesus showed His love by serving those around him
- The revelation of the Love of God is not by words but in actions
  - o If we love one another we will NOT live to please ourselves but live in service to others
    - Relational care - Calling people who are not doing well

- Visiting
  - Physical care - Giving help
    - Visiting, providing food
  - Emotional
    - Supportive
- THIS KIND OF DEMONSTRATIVE LOVE WILL CHANGE THE WORLD
- Not many people are able to SNAP OUT of their self-centered lives

## HOW DID JESUS CREATE CHANGE?

### 4) He consistently disciplined others (gathered people and showed them what it means to follow God)

Mat 28:19 (NIV) Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

- The process of Discipleship
  - Making Friends
  - Gathering with them
    - Teaching them what you know
    - Encouraging them in their walk with God
    - Helping them in need
    - Helping them to believe in Jesus
  - Showing them what it means to love and follow God!

## AN EXAMPLE: The Legacy of Salt and Light

### Martin Luther King Jr.

- Was a popular Christian speaker & pastor
- Broke campaigns of hate in the south (Birmingham Campaign)
  - Creating wide spread policy change in cities all across the U.S.
- Made Powerful Speeches that Changed History (I have a dream)
  - Focus on Equality of races
- Received Nobel Peace Prize (international recognition)
  - Provided a model for how to slowly create LASTING change
- Founded SCLC – raised up leaders who transformed the World
  - A legacy that is SALT AND LIGHT in 10 different agencies
- Led HUGE events where people gathered peacefully (march on Washington)
  - Memorable events that cause
- Was murdered – by someone who opposed him
  - Martyrdom – His death propelled his legacy to
- Is a U.S. Hero
  - Has 1200 Streets in major cities named after Him – only 10 states DON'T have a street
  - Martin Luther King Jr day is 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in January

### Malcolm X

- Organized Nation of Islam temples
  - Closed
- Promoted Nation of Islam
  - now classified at Extremist Group
- Founded a newspaper, “Muhammed Speaks”
  - No longer
- Founded Afro-American Unity Organization

- No longer
- Created awareness of discrimination toward people of color
- Speeches focused on Black Nationalism and violent resistance
  - Promoted self-determination and self-defense
  - Contributed to widespread violence
- Led a unity rally in Harlem – thousands attended
  - Was marked by violence
- Was killed by Thomas Hagan (a disaffected member of NOI)
- Legacy
  - Violence –
  - One street in New York City – Malcolm X Boulevard