



Man Disrupted:

How Jesus changes men for the better

Devotion #5

Read Matthew 5:13-16

'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.

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 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. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.'

Matthew 5:13-16, NIV

The eruption of Krakatoa in August 1883 was one of the most deadly volcanic eruptions of modern history. It caused tsunamis which are believed to have been over 30 metres high. The explosions were so violent that they were heard 3,500 km away in Perth. In the year following the eruption, average global temperatures fell by as much as 1.2 °C. The shockwave from the final explosion reverberated around the globe 7 times in total.

Jesus says that His disciples can have an impact on the world as we live as His followers, just as the eruption of Krakatoa sent a shockwave around the globe. As we live as salt and light before the watching world, they will see and some will turn to God.

The point Jesus is making in these verses is explicit in verse 13. He says this as a warning. You are to be who you are, otherwise you are ineffective on this earth. If you are not merciful, peacemaking, humble, pure in heart you are not being salty and so are useless. We are to be salty because Jesus has made us salty.

Jesus goes on to say God has made us a light in a dark world. The Beatitudes are not to be lived out in splendid isolation. They are not to be lived out in a monastery, but in the world.

It is easy to keep our faith private but Jesus calls us to be public with our faith. Let me share some helpful thoughts John Lennox shared with us at BASECAMP 2020:

- 'The antidote to fear lies in our attitude to the Lord; we are to honour Him as Holy. We are not to focus on our fear but on Jesus' Lordship of our lives.'
- 'We are not alone in this.'

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- 'When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—He will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness.' (John 15:26)
- 'We do not bear the responsibility of witness, the Holy Spirit does.'
- 'Have no fear as the Lord is with you.'

Here are 3 helpful, practical steps John also gave about witnessing:

1. Observe something about another when talking to them;
2. Ask a question about what you observed; and
3. Give them God's Word i.e. a copy of one of the Gospels.

Reflection Questions

1. What feeling wells up in you as you hear Jesus call to be 'salt' and 'light?'
2. Where do you find strength in Jesus' words?
3. What step can you take today to be 'salt' and 'light?'

Prayer

Oh Father, I am so prone to be fearful and so keep my faith private. I hear Your word to me that I am to be 'salt' and 'light', and I feel anxious. Help me to know You are with me by Your Spirit so that I am not alone in this. In my living and speaking may I be 'salty' and shine like a lighthouse. Give me a sense of Your presence as I step out in faith today. Amen.

BASECAMP

A Ministry of Katoomba Christian Convention

Katoomba Christian Convention
PO Box 156
Burwood NSW 1805

1300 737 140
info@kcc.org.au
www.basecampmen.com