

Salt and Light

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Reading: Matthew 5:13-16 (MSG)

13 “Let me tell you why you are here. You’re here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You’ve lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage.

14-16 “Here’s another way to put it: You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I’m putting you on a light stand. Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you’ll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.

Questions for Reflection

1. If you get a chance, watch this clip from the Lord of the Rings depicting the Battle of Helms Deep. <https://youtu.be/3fbhVPnhX-4?si=kAs8C40VyBF5DEs->
 - a. When you see the first sign of the light how does it make you feel?
 - b. Has there been a moment recently where you have felt the same way?
2. Abi suggests that part of being “salty” is to live out God’s instruction to us in Micah 6:8. Do you agree? What are some of the ways we can do this locally both as individuals and as a church community?
3. There is a whakatauki (Māori proverb) that reads:
Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi engari he toa takitini taku toa.

Translated it means:

My strength does not come from my individuality, my strength comes from many.

Consider what this means in the context of your church community. Keep in mind that “togetherness” or unity doesn’t mean that we all do the same thing or think the same way. How can we continue to work on our “togetherness” so that we are truly better together? What’s the first step that we can take to get there? (Remember that often the most obvious step is the easiest!)

Prayer

Loving God,

We thank you for the community you have placed us in,

Of our belonging to you and each other.

Let this be a gift that we do not take for granted.

As we go from here into the rest of our day,

may we consider all the ways you invite us into the act of co-creation -
with you and with each other.

May we keep an open table,

continuing to Live out our call to bless others as we have been blessed,

And to be a sprinkle of salt in our communities.

Amen.