

SOTM pt 8 – You Are What This World Needs

Pastor John Carmichael

[Mat 5:13-16 NASB95] 13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty [again?] It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. 14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; 15 nor does [anyone] light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

- This dark sinful world needs you. This world needs you to be what God has made you to be.
- Jesus is challenging us to be what this world needs. He did not speak these words to the powerful, affluent, and wealthy. Most of them were ordinary people. They were, as Spurgeon called them, “bronzed-faced and horny-handed peasants and fishermen, who had become disciples of Jesus.” "Study Guide for Matthew 5 by David Guzik."
- Jesus did not say they would become salt, or light, or a city on a hill. He stated they already are those things.
- You already are what this world needs.

How are we what this world needs?

Understanding that we are salt, light, and a city on a hill helps to understand how we are what this world needs.

I. You are the salt of the earth.

- a. Salt has several characteristics that help us understand what Jesus wants us to do to affect this world.
- b. Salt seasons. It influences flavor.
- c. Salt preserves from decay. Salted ham in stores.
- d. Have lost his savor (μωρανθῆ). The kindred noun (μωρός) means dull, sluggish; applied to the mind, stupid or silly; applied to the taste, insipid, flat. Vincent Word Studies
- e. Salt promotes healing. [Eze 16:4 NASB95] 4 "As for your birth, on the day you were born your navel cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water for cleansing; you were not rubbed with salt or even wrapped in cloths.
- f. How does salt lose its saltiness? Pure salt can not lose saltiness. According to James Shelton, LITSNTC, this referred to salt that was mixed with other elements. At times, the sodium chloride would leach out and it was worthless.
- g. Jesus was talking about losing our fire and mixing other ideas and lifestyles while trying to live for God.

II. You are the light of the world.

- a. Gives guidance. Repels darkness.
- b. “So, shine your life before men.” Wycliffe. It was not just an identity, but a responsibility.
- c. Lampstand is the church – Vincent Word Study in the NT - [Rev 1:20 NASB95] 20 "As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.
- d. A unified church. A collection of lights.
- e. The oil – the power of the Spirit.
- f. Compliment and responsibility. Are we failing or fulfilling?
- g. Why would we hide it? Darkness hates light.

III. You are a city in a hill.

- a. A city is a product of social and governmental order.

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- b. We are to stand against chaos and disorder.
- c. [Isa 60:14 NASB95] 14 "The sons of those who afflicted you will come bowing to you, And all those who despised you will bow themselves at the soles of your feet; And they will call you the city of the LORD, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.
- d. Be bold!
- e. We are to be seen not to be hidden. Everyone should see the Jesus in us.

IV. How to be what Jesus made you to be and what this world needs?

- a. Affect not blend into the world. Yes, coexist. Seek to change. No secret Christian. Prayer and action. This includes voting in elections.
 - b. Stay on fire for God! [Rom 12:11 NASB95] 11 not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;
 - c. Stay pure. Keep the Word of God in front of you. Belief and lifestyle. We will never affect the world for Jesus by becoming like the world. See the beatitudes. Have nothing to do with deeds of darkness. [Eph 5:5-13 NASB95] 5 For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore do not be partakers with them; 8 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light 9 (for the fruit of the Light [consists] in all goodness and righteousness and truth), 10 trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; 12 for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. 13 But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.
 - d. Preach truth with love. Challenge the world.
 - e. Do good things. Help people. Serve people. Encourage people.
 - f. Unify with the church. WE are the lampstand. A unified church empowered by the Holy Spirit is what it is going to take to change our communities.
 - g. Know you are called and empowered to change the world. Ordinary people heard they have a responsibility to the earth and the world. Realize your potential.
- **God calls all of us to affect this world by living in the light of holiness and love while being unified with His Church and helping people through the power of the Holy Spirit.**