

May 2025

Dear Friend in Christ,

A blessed Easter. This Easter, let us resolve to be what Jesus said about us as He said to His disciples in Mt 5: 13-16 *"You are like Salt for all mankind. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer for anything except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. Then He added "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden....."*

Jesus uses this metaphor of we are salt and we're light, do we take them to heart and act on it or do we just take note and put them at the back of our minds. In Mk 4:8 Jesus says *"Listen, then, if you have ears"*. Yes, we should listen and live our lives accordingly because note what Jesus says *"You are"*. He wants us to see ourselves the way He already does. That's why He doesn't say - You will be salt and light or You have salt and light or You must be salt and light. Jesus doesn't look to the future of His disciples and us and tell when they or us could be. Jesus calls out the very best in His disciples even before they have demonstrated anything. And He does the same to you and me. Jesus sees so much potential in His disciples and us. He is speaking to us - to our identity. Yes, we have much more to offer than we think because we are made in God's image, infused with gifts and purposes by our Creator. Our problem is we only often fixate on our gaps and failures.

"You are the salt of the earth". So how do we respond?

First take the characteristic of salt- **it seasons**. Salt brings out the flavours in food, making it enjoyable. So, one way we can be salt to season others is when our conversations are laced with references to compassion, charity, justice, forgiveness, patience, kindness, gentleness. So, in what areas of our lives have we been using the gifts that God gave us for God's purposes? Our money? Our time? Our talent? Our creativity? Have we committed to living a Christian life with a heart for those who are lost, and those who are least? If all the while we're using these gifts for ourselves, for our benefits and enjoyment then we have not been a salt to season others. As salt, we're to enrich the soil, kill weeds, and stimulate growth to places where conditions are challenging and life is hard so as to draw out the best in others so that life springs up on unexpected places. So let's add flavours to others and not under-season by distancing ourselves or over-season by dominating the lives of others.

Second characteristic of salt - **salt sustains**. In ancient time salt was the main thing used to preserve food from decay and corruption. So as disciples of Jesus we're called to be a preserving presence. And we can do this by having to extend the saltiness- the sweet aroma of Christ's love to keep it from decay, preserving its goodness and preventing it from becoming corrupted or ruined as we go about to work, live our lives and interact with people everyday when there is racism, poverty, gossip, relational dysfunction and so on. Be careful we will damage our saltiness if our lives are dull and indifferent and our faith is un compelling and we reject the intimacy, the closeness to God so freely offered to us.

Light of the world

Like the earlier saying again Jesus doesn't look to the future of His disciples and tell them what they could be. He announces right from the start the good news- They are already light. Similarly Jesus wants us to see from outset the way He already does. Jesus looks at His disciples and us, saying "*You are that light*". Jesus Himself is the light. In Jn 8:12, He says, "*I am the light of the world*". He gives His disciples and us the same title.

Light helps us to see. It makes things visible and reveals what would otherwise remain hidden. So where in our lives have been light to others to help them find their way, especially to God. And we can be the light when we are grafted onto Him, when we assume His mind and His attitude, when we live His life. What a sacred calling we are given. But it is possible also we have not live up to His holy calling. Instead of displaying the good life - defined by love, compassion, reconciliation and peace, we simply mimic the world. Yes it's possible to possess the light of Jesus while remaining detached and disconnected from darkness, but what good does that do? We are to shine, illuminating the world through our actions, works and reflecting God's light to others. So how do we shine?

To shine and reflect God's light we need first to pray. Prayer is both the entry point n essential power that helps us follow Jesus. Following Jesus is not a matter of skill or grit but through a life of being with God in prayer. As light we're to empower, to strengthen, to change Hearts.

Indeed, the choice is up to us. Jesus calls us to let our light shine before others, transforming lives and in a way that glorifies God. It might feel overwhelming and unattainable but Jesus believes that it can be done through us. We shine our lights not for ourselves but to glorify God. As we do that, we will find ourselves through the narrow path but fulfilling way of His Kingdom.

Glory Be.

