

Counter Culture
“The Influence of God’s Person” - Matthew 5:13-16

What possible influence can the person described by the beatitudes have in a world with upside down ethics? How is this possible, especially when we are always a minority? “A lot,” says Jesus. And we can see a great example in His 12 disciples and the early Christians. In fact they turned their world upside down for Jesus (Acts 17:6).

Matthew 5:13-16 - “You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. You are the light of the world - like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.”

1. The salt of the earth. vs. 13

Our world is decaying and depraved spiritually and morally. Our society on its own has no hope.

2 Timothy 3:1-5, 8, 13 - “You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that! ... These teachers oppose the truth just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses. They have depraved minds and a counterfeit faith. ... But evil people and impostors will flourish. They will deceive others and will themselves be deceived.”

In the Greco Roman world of the first century, to preserve meat and hinder its decay, salt was rubbed into the meat. The contact of salt to meat causes preservation. We are to be rubbed into the world, to be a conscience to society, hindering its moral decline.

We are to be in the world but not of the world. Our contact should affect the world and not contaminate us. Remember vs. 13 - “But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.”

How has CLCC been light to our community in the past five years?

Conclusion: How will you be both salt and light to your world? Here is a question to think about. Instead of trying to be the best church “in” our community, perhaps we should strive to be the best church “for” our community. See the difference?