

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 20TH - 21ST, 2022 // VISION SERVICE

SALT & LIGHT (MATTHEW 5:13-16)

Matthew 5-7 is a section of Jesus' teaching often called the **"Sermon on the Mount": a description of the inner character and lifestyle of a true disciple of Jesus.**

- After Jesus gives the **inner character, attitude, and conduct of a true disciple in the "beatitudes,"** He gives us two word pictures that **explain the impact** a disciple will have on his or her world.
- As believers, **we are to be involved in our world** in order to expand the Kingdom.

"SALT" (VS. 13)

The two central usages for salt in the 1st century were for preservation and for flavoring.

- Salt preserves from corruption—therefore a disciple is to prevent or confront corruption in the world.
- Secondly, salt adds flavor—the influence of a disciple should bring interest, life, and flavor to whatever group or community they're a part of. The world needs the influence of the Church!

But if the **"salt loses its taste, it's no good"**—disciples that don't live according to their nature as salt are useless to the King's advancement of the Kingdom on earth (**one might even question their Kingdom citizenship**).

- **How do we lose our saltiness?**

1. **Worldliness** (we lose our distinctness as believers).
2. **Isolationism** (we become uninvolved in our world and cease to "flavor" and "preserve" it).

"LIGHT" (VS. 14-16)

The function of light is to make reality or truth visible, giving direction and guidance to all who see it.

- Jesus tells His disciples that this is what they **"are"**—**our identity is that we make reality & truth visible** to the world by giving direction and guidance.
- If that light becomes hidden, it ceases to serve a purpose—when we're ashamed of who we are as disciples, **we act contrary to our nature and function.**

But when we, as disciples of Jesus, **make our devotion, testimony, and witness visible and obvious**, it causes people to glorify our Father in Heaven (vs. 16).

- What Jesus wants us to know is that this Kingdom involves a deeply personal relationship with God as a Father.
- And part of our role as a disciple is to point others to **the heart of God as a Father.**

ACCORDING TO JESUS...

A true disciple seeks to **glorify God and expand God's Kingdom** in their world.

- A disciple is like salt—they prevent and confront corruption, and they bring flavor and life.
- A disciple is like light—they make truth visible and point people to God's character and nature through their lifestyle. Light shouldn't be hidden; salt shouldn't lose its taste.

WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

"Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." Matt. 4:19

- **A Disciple is...**
- ...someone who is following Jesus. ...someone who is being changed by Jesus. ...someone who joins the mission of Jesus.

WHAT IS THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH?

The mission of the Church is obedience to the task given by God of making disciples: the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). This gives God glory and brings humanity their only hope: the gospel of Jesus Christ!

- The Experience Community Church creates authentic disciples of Jesus Christ through Authentic Worship, Authentic Community, and Authentic Community Service.

WORSHIP

Corporate worship is **an entry point in community and the process of discipleship** (Acts 2:46a; Heb. 10:25).

- We strive to create an engaging and welcoming environment that is authentic and points people to life in Christ.

NEXT CLASS.

Next Class happens on the **2nd Monday of every month to help people find their next step in discipleship** in our church family.

DEVELOPMENT CLASSES

- **Following Jesus—the foundations of the Christian faith and how to be a disciple**
- **Authentic Discipleship**—how to make disciples and live out the Great Commission (concepts, identity, and practices of a disciple-maker).

COMMUNITY (LIFE GROUPS)

We all need a **community of believers to fellowship with, pray together, study the Bible together,** and hold each other accountable (Acts 2:46b).

COMMUNITY SERVICE

A genuine commitment to Jesus is ultimately a **commitment to serving others**—He tells us time and time again the importance of serving (Mk. 9:35).

- Serving in our church—**Hospitality, ECCO/Nursery, Production, Worship, Security, Care Team.**

- Serving in our community—**5000 ministry, community service events, nonprofit partners.** It's more blessed to give than receive.

IN OUR REGION

The Experience Community is a network of churches that has campuses in Murfreesboro, Cannon County, and Shelbyville.

- We believe God has called us to be a **church that continues to plant churches** in Middle Tennessee.
- We believe that God is leading us to plant a **campus in Manchester sometime in 2023.**

Right now, we're **putting together a ministry team and a strategic plan** to launch this campus when the time is right.

- We are **looking for a building/facility** (we don't feel like God is leading us to do a building campaign or construction project).
- If you live in **Manchester/Coffee County**, will you pray about being a part of this new work?

We currently have **9 full-time pastoral and ministry interns** in our MIT program that are spending 2022 getting trained to be a part of current & future campus teams.

- There are **95 counties in Tennessee**—a lot of them don't have life-giving, disciple-making, biblical churches. Think about all that God can do if we're willing to send, go, and give!

IN OUR WORLD

"From everyone who has been **given much, much will be demanded**; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked" (Luke 12:48).

- As Americans, God has blessed us with freedom, affluence, and unfathomable resources.
- We minister globally by **supporting, sending, and equipping missionaries** to go into all the world.
- You can **pray, give, and go!**
- Tara Henson (**Uganda**). Light & Life Ministries, Shelby & Jameson Toyo, Grandi Nan Nou Home Ministries (**Haiti**) Toffer & Becky King (**Reach Beyond, East Asia**). Simeon's Cry (**Israel**) . Redemption Church (**San Francisco, CA**). Sequoia Campus Church (**Eugene, Oregon**). **Uganda Mission Trip: November 4-13**

CHURCH FINANCES & NUMBERS

WHY TALK ABOUT MONEY & THE NUMBERS?

- **1 Corinthians 4:2.** We (staff, elders, leadership) are accountable to YOU for how we invest the money that you give—we want to provide TOTAL financial transparency.

ACROSS ALL EXPERIENCE CAMPUSES

2022 Budget: **\$8.3 Million**

- 2022 Expected Income: **\$9.4 Million**
- Central Network: \$2,494,940. Murfreesboro: \$4,654,967. Cannon County: \$555,000. Shelbyville: \$349,981. Overall staffing: 32% of total budget. Overall benevolence: 30% of total budget

CANNON COUNTY CAMPUS BUDGET

Annual Budget for 2022: **\$555,000.00**

- YTD Giving: \$399,954 (2022 est. total, \$630,230.54)
- **Administration:** \$264,475.82 (all staff salaries, benefits, payroll taxes).
- **Operations:** \$79,813.18 (utilities, maintenance, technology, office equipment/supplies, etc.).
- **Worship/Production:** \$18,000.00 (equipment, supplies, audio/video hardware & software).
- **Student Ministries:** \$52,000.00 (childcare for Life Groups, curriculum/supplies for ECCO, supplies for Nursery, supplies/events for Encounter).
- **Development:** \$13,500.00 (Life Group resources, Hospitality supplies, Security Team, pastoral expenses).
- **Special Events:** \$16,100.00 (Fall Festival, Community Camp, Next Class, Men's & Women's Summits, Volunteer Banquet)
- **Benevolence/Missions:** \$111,111.00 (20%). Stones River Recovery, S2L, Lion's Club, WeCareCannon, Child Advocacy Center, S.A.V.E., Gideon's, Cannon County Food Bank, church benevolence requests, Generations of Woodbury, Cannon County Rescue Squad, 5000 Ministry, CASA, Forgotten Initiative, Cannon County School lunches.

ATTENDANCE (ADULTS AND CHILDREN)

561 avg. a week in person (adults and children), 233 watches per week via livestream.

- Total number of life groups: **124 adults (32% involved in a Life Group, 40-50% is the goal)**
- Total number of volunteers: **190 adults (50% of adults volunteering regularly)**

AN INVITATION.

"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men..." Matthew 4:19

THE GREAT INVITATION

- Jesus has invited you to something so much greater than a **slightly better version of a life** lived without Him—an abundant, satisfying, fulfilling life as a disciple.
- That life involves a **deeply personal relationship** with Jesus and with God as our perfect Father (Matt. 5:16).
- That life involves a passionate desire to **glorify God and expand God's Kingdom** in our world as salt and light! *What does your heart burn for?*