

PASS THE SALT!



The following document is a rough copy of Pastor Drost's sermon notes
of his message preached June 25th, 2017

This is part 02 of last week's message: "SHINE BRIGHTER"



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- Last week our reading was from Matthew 5:13–16... I would like us to read it again today. Jesus uses two interesting metaphors—light and salt in **Matthew 5:13-14**

Our topic was: **SHINE BRIGHTER**

“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

“Vous êtes le sel de la terre. Mais si le sel perd sa saveur, avec quoi la lui rendra-t-on? Il ne sert plus qu'à être jeté dehors, et foulé aux pieds par les hommes.

“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:13–16 (NKJV)

Vous êtes la lumière du monde. Une ville située sur une montagne ne peut être cachée; et on n'allume pas une lampe pour la mettre sous le boisseau, mais on la met sur le chandelier, et elle éclaire tous ceux qui sont dans la maison. Que votre lumière luise ainsi devant les hommes, afin qu'ils voient vos bonnes oeuvres, et qu'ils glorifient votre Père qui est dans les cieux.” Matthieu 5:13-16 (LSG)

- Last Sunday we started talking about the meaning of the word HOLY or HOLINESS... We observed that different people have different preconceived ideas as to what this BIBLE word means:

What does it mean to be holy? What does a holy person look like?

- To some this word “holy” evokes a whole set of rules on how you dress, how you look, where you don't go, what you don't do.
- To others this word “holy” reminds them of a saint, a monk, a very pious devout person. An ascetic who looks a bit pale from fasting, or praying or meditating on top of some rock.

What does the word HOLINESS mean in the Bible?

To understand this word “Holy” we looked last week at John's vision of heaven...

“I (John) was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian. A rainbow, resembling an emerald, encircled the throne... From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. Also before the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. Around the throne, were four living creatures... day and night they never stop saying: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.’” (Parts of Revelation 4 NIV)

If you were to stand before God's throne you would be blown away by how incredibly awesome and fantastic He really is. God's actual presence evokes awe and wonder!

God is the absolute essence of unimaginable excellence... We really cannot completely grasp the magnitude of His infinitely flawlessness. It's way beyond our understanding for **there is nothing like Him**. He stands apart from everything we know.



We can't simply think of something or someone very amazing and then raising that something or someone to the highest level and suggest that we have explained God.

Who or what could we use to compare Him to?

As A. W. Tozer says in his book *The Knowledge of the Holy*,
"God's holiness is not simply the best we know infinitely bettered".

THERE IS NOTHING LIKE HIM

nothing so fantastic, nothing so pure, nothing so perfect

The word Holy is used to describe this condition.

And it basically means: **There is nothing like it, totally different, standing out in a class of its own.**

Holiness is what makes you say, "WOW!" when you look at God

(It is what draws you to God – what makes him amazing)

❖ **Illustration:**

When I'm relaxing I enjoy watching Treehouse Masters starring **Pete Nelson**, a master treehouse builder himself. Each episode, Nelson and his team design and build custom treehouses for clients across the country. When it's finished Pete shows his clients the treehouse and they go "wow!" What makes these so amazing is they are not your normal backyard treehouse. These are masterpieces! These are built for people that can afford to sink \$150,000 into a treehouse. They even bring in interior decorators.

Holiness is what makes you say, "WOW!"

❖ How does this apply to us?

1 Peter 1:17-16 (NIV) says: "Just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy.'"

❖ As we come into His amazing, attractive, beautiful, presence, He wants us to be transformed into "wow" people. He wants us to become extraordinary people serving an extraordinary God.

"...be holy in all you DO. 1 Peter 1:17-16 (NIV)

Religion focuses on being holy in "how you look"... the outward appearance... looking holy!

But God is interested in the action of HOLINESS

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see (how holy you look? That they may hear what you say? NO)... that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16

Jesus was constantly clashing with the religious leaders because they often focused on the outward rather than the inward:

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness." Matthew 23:27-28 (NKJV)



Illustration:

- South of Spain (Mediterranean) everything whitewashed
- They used that on the graves also...

They LOOK nice and HOLY outside but are rotten inside

...you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones.

Jesus is wanting us to FIRST focus on the inward part, the heart, not the outward, how we look.

- ❖ He said to the religious leaders of his time...

Matthew 23:25–26 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and lack of self-control. Blind Pharisee, FIRST clean the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside may be clean also.”

Still today, a religious spirit focuses on the externals rather than on a HOLINESS of the heart.

- ❖ When talking about women's adornment, notice the emphasis the **Apostle Peter** puts on the inward...

“Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel—rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves.”

1 Peter 3:3–5a (NKJV)

Peter is telling us that what should stand out; what should adorn you should be the “inner beauty”, the inner person rather than the outer.

- Now you don't achieve this by having unkept hair, wearing no jewelry or make-up and selecting unattractive apparel.

THAT IS STILL A WAY OF FOCUSING ON THE EXTERNAL

You can dress like a nun on the outside and still have a nasty unattractive attitude inside! THAT IS NOT ATTRACTIVE!

The non-Christian world doesn't look at that and say: “Wow, I want what she has!”

Jesus said: “You are the light of the world”. “You are the salt of the earth.”

Guess what, that is not light! That is not salt! And they are saying “please pass the salt!” They just don't want what many Christians have... religion!

The people in your neighbourhood, the people you work with, the people you rub shoulders with, those that read your Facebook posts, are not at all interested in religion. It does not attract them in the least - BUT THEY ARE ATTRACTED TO A GREAT INNER HEART.

Illustration

- This week I had the opportunity of having one of the most wonderful God ordained encounters I have had in weeks. I cannot go into details because it would break confidentiality but



what I can say is that the Holy Spirit aligned my path with another person and the timing could not have been better. It just was a God sent miracle moment.

- I can tell you that this person shared with me how as a boy his dad had abandoned him and his alcoholic mother.
- His childhood was very rocky but he had a wonderful Christian grandmother and she became the greatest influence in his life.
- These are his words: “She was the only person I heard say ‘I love you’”.
- I believe it was her influence, her light and her prayers that opened the door for me to have such a wonderful conversation with him about Jesus and to be able to pray with him with tears in our eyes.
- **A holy grandmother! A light of hope in the darkness of a boy’s life!**

“You are the light of the world”. “You are the salt of the earth.”

That holy grandmother flavoured (salted) a young boy’s life with life.

❖ When I shared this story with my wife we ended up talking about the people that impacted us in similar ways... SALT and LIGHT IN OUR LIVES

- She shared a few names like **Sis Betts**... many (many) people found Jesus through Sis Bets.
- **The person that impacted me was my dad.** My father, while being a preacher, was one the most holy men I have ever met while at the same time one of the least religious people I have ever met. HE WAS JUST VERY REAL AND BROUGHT LIGHT TO THOUSANDS.
- Dad was always helping people. He had a true heart that cared.
- One day while in Spain (I was about 15) he said to me, “I just have to drop in the hospital and visit this Canadian guy that has cancer and has only has a few days to live....
 - Dad had led this guy to Jesus. His life was so overjoyed (He had met the Light of the World).
 - Dad asked him what he could get him... he wanted a Bible and a pack of Winston cigarettes (Dad, “And I plan on granting him his dying wish” “What difference does it make, he only has a few days left”).

Let me say this:

If you walk away today thinking, “Pastor Drost said it was OK to smoke cigarettes” you have just missed the whole point!

Religion also focuses on rules rather than heart!

The Pharisees’ were constantly angry at Jesus because he ignored their hundreds of elaborate but petty religious man made rules that they had added as mandatory for obeying the laws of God.

“Woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass by justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.” Luke 11:42 (NKJV)

Justice and the love of God – Salt and light

In John 8 the religious leaders brought a woman caught in adultery...

- Set her in the midst of the crowd (shame)



- “Jesus, the law says she should be stoned, what do you say?”
- This is the showdown between law and mercy; condemnation and forgiveness; darkness and light.
- Jesus is silent, he bends down and writes on the ground.
- Then he tells the religious leaders: “He who is without sin cast the first stone” and back down he continues to write on the ground...
- From the oldest to the youngest their conscience bothers them and they all leave.
- Jesus last words to the woman are: “Neither I condemn you, go and sin no more”

Jesus brought justice to an unjust situation and the love of God to a broken person. Salt and light!

❖ Who are you in this story?

- The woman caught in sin? Ashamed?
- The religious people ready to condemn her?
- Or Jesus extending her “justice and the love of God” – Salt and light?

Ah, but you see, he is calling us to be his salt and light!

Closing prayer:

May you be the salt and light of Jesus to your world this week

Bringing justice and the love of God

May Jesus touch someone through your hands

May Jesus hear someone this week through your ears

May Jesus walk over to someone with your feet

May Jesus speak life to someone through your mouth

May the love of God be in your heart towards someone in need

May you be His light and salt to the world around you this week!

