

June 9, 2024

Speaker: Tim McCardel

New Message Series: “What Matters Most”

Today’s Talk: Straight Talk About Faith

Ephesians 6:10, 12

2 Chronicles 20:12-15, 22, 29

⇒ “Everyman... is responsible for his own face.” ~Abraham Lincoln

Paul’s 4 Prison Epistles: Key word in Philippians—Joy (19 times): a choice we make, a permanent and deep-seated sense of well-being no matter what happens.

James 1:2-4

The Take-A-Way: What’s inside of us shows up on the outside. Our true character, the “be-attitudes” will be seen in how we live—affecting our witness to the world.

1. True Christ Followers Are To Shake and Shine

Matthew 5:12-16

Three Areas To Notice: 1) “You are the salt... You are the light of the world...”

◆ This “You” is an affirmation, a confirmation, declaring it to be totally true.

2) This is a Reminder: For ALL Christ-followers, no one is excluded.

3) **Jesus says:** “You are salt”, “You are light” - NOT: “You should be”, Not: “You could be” BUT: You Already Are! **The Question:** What Kind Are We?

Be Wise/Be Loving: Salt if too much: Ruins food; Light if too much: Blinds!

2. Get Out of The Shaker

Matthew 5:13

FOUR TRUTHS:

1) We were created to shake and spread salt; to influence our world for good.

2) Christ-Followers are the salt for God to use to make people thirsty for God and help prevent decay of our world.

* “Shake—don’t pour, Shine—don’t blind” ~Swindoll

3) **Two Other Extremes:** 1: Some isolate, “Holy Huddles”, self-protection; 2: Others Become like the world, no impact of Christ.

4) In N.T. salt didn’t prevent decay—but it delayed meat decaying.

⇒ So... How do you taste? ... Are you salty? ... Are you stuck in the saltshaker?

Psalms 34:8

3. Turn On Your Light

Matthew 5:14, 15

Philippians 2:12-16

* The Darker The Night - The Brighter The Light

Get This: Light cannot dispel the darkness if it doesn’t come in contact with the darkness.

Matthew 5:16

* GK (kalos) “good” -like an apple-fresh and appealing: looks good to eat

Salt: Invisible, works secretly

Light: Visible, works quickly and openly

Next Week: Straight Talk About Your Faith Pt.2