



LIFEGROUPS

Series: We are FOR...

Sermon: ...Making a Difference

Scripture: Matthew 5:13-16

Date: Feb. 27 & 28, 2016

—[LET'S TALK]—

- What is something you are for that is very meaningful to you?

—[LET'S WARM UP]—

- What does it mean to be a friend of sinners? Does that describe you?
- What things do people judge each other on? Why do we do this?
- Is it true that Christians are known more for what they're against? Why or why not?
- How comfortable are you with evangelism? What shaped your opinion?

—[LET'S DIG | CHOOSE 1]—

- Read Matthew 5:13-16 and talk about being salt and light. [*IMPORTANT NOTE*](#)
 1. Why did Jesus choose salt and light to describe us?
 2. How does one think and behave as salt and light?
 3. How will being salt and light show the world that God is not against them but for them?
 4. What is the purpose of our good deeds?
- Read Colossians 4:2-6 and talk about witnessing to non-Christ followers.
 1. How are we to act toward outsiders? What might that look like?
 2. What does this passage presume you're doing? How does that impact applying this passage to your life?
 3. What does it mean to have a conversation "seasoned with salt?"
 4. Why should we answer everyone in the manner described here?

—[LET'S ACT]—

- Be *for* something. The next time you're at Wooddale, be sure to grab a "We are FOR _____" card (you can take as many as you'd like). Write in something you want the world to know the Church is *for*. Then, do something for that thing you are *for*! Share about it with your LifeGroup, friends, family, or on social media to encourage others and to help show the world what Christ's Church is *for*.

—[**SERMON REVIEW**]—

- Scriptures referenced: [Luke 18:9-14] - [1 John 4:16-19] - [Romans 8:15]
- Evangelicals' relationships with unbelievers are often perceived like a bad date.
- Pharisees became at odds with Jesus because they were largely against the world Jesus came to die for.
- All Christians are prone to becoming "Accidental Pharisees" when we begin to have a sense of superiority, frustration, or even contempt for non-Christ followers or even Christians who aren't as spiritually mature.
- We cannot earn God's love. He loves us and has enabled us to be His children. We have no grounds to think we are better than anyone else.

—[**NOTES**]—

*On salt in Matthew 5:13-16:

Do not get distracted by the salt metaphor. Many people get caught up on the idea of the salt losing its saltiness and being thrown out. Indeed, interpreting this passage out of the context of the rest of scripture will lead one to believe that if a person "loses their saltiness," then they've irredeemably lost their usefulness—they've been "thrown out to be trampled by horses." Satan loves to use this metaphor out of context to accuse and demoralize Christians. To see the true meaning of the metaphor, make a comparison with the lamp metaphor: Salt that has lost its saltiness is useless, but the comparison is not that light losing its "lightiness" is useless. Rather, as salt loses its saltiness and becomes useless, so too a lamp is put under a basket and becomes useless—a clearly reversible condition.

Thus, the not-salty-salt being thrown out simply illustrates the uselessness of a faith that does not impact others with love. It does not illustrate what happens to a person who loses their saltiness. Lastly, if you are still concerned when the scripture says, "Can you make it salty again?" consider this answer: "No, you cannot. But yes, God can." Even when we lose our saltiness or hide our lamps under baskets, we may be useless at that point in time, but God has redemption for us all. Is that not the witness of Jesus' parable in Luke 18:9-14?