



Gospel Reading: Matthew 5: 13-16

Jesus said to his disciples:

“You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lamp stand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.”

Gospel Meditation

What can salt and light have to teach us about God and his reign on earth? Jesus used ordinary images, such as salt and light, to convey extraordinary truths about the kingdom of God. Salt was a valuable commodity in the ancient world. People traded with it, like we trade with gold and stock. Salt also served a very useful purpose in hot climates before the invention of electricity and refrigeration. Salt not only gave food flavor, it also preserved meat from spoiling. Jesus used the image of salt to describe how his disciples are to live in the world. As salt purifies, preserves, and penetrates, so the disciple must be as salt in the world of human society to purify, preserve, and penetrate that society for the kingdom of God and of his righteousness and peace.

Jesus also used the image of light and a lamp to further his illustration. Lamps in the ancient world served a vital function, much like they do today. They enable people to see and work in the dark and to avoid stumbling. The Jews also understood “light” as an expression of the inner beauty, truth, and goodness of God. In his

light we see light (Psalm36:9). His word is a lamp that guides our steps (Psalm 119:105). God’s grace not only illumines the darkness in our lives, but it also fills us with spiritual light, joy, and peace. Jesus used the image of a lamp to describe how his disciples are to live in the light of his truth and love. Just as natural light illumines the darkness and enables one to see visually, so the light of Christ shines in the hearts of believers and enables us to see the heavenly reality of God’s kingdom. In fact, our mission is to be light-bearers of Christ so that others may see the truth of the gospel and be freed from the blindness of sin and deception.

Jesus remarks that nothing can remain hidden or secret. We can try to hide things from others, from ourselves, and from God. How tempting to shut our eyes from the consequences of our sinful ways and bad habits, even when we know what those consequences are. And how tempting to hide them from others and even from God. But, nonetheless, everything is known to God who sees all. There is great freedom and joy for those who live in God’s light and who seek this truth. Those who listen to God and heed his voice will receive more from him. Do you know the joy and freedom of living in God’s light?

www.dailyscripture.net Copyright © 2012-2023 Don Schwager

Reflection Questions

For Reading 1:

Q: What discourages you? How do you fight against discouragement?

Q: How can you let your light shine? Or, how can you let God shine through you?

For Responsorial Psalm:

Q: How has God blessed you in this life?

Q: How do you see your blessings from God? Are they the blessings that will last through eternity?

For Reading 2:

Q: What would you like to accomplish in the near future?

Q: Have you prayed God will use you this day? How do you think God will use you to achieve his ends?

For the Gospel:

Q: What are the differences between the leader and the follower? When does a follower lead?

Q: Who has inspired you to live as a Christian? What have they done to inspire you?

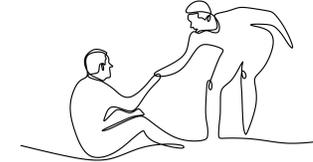
Q: What can you do today to be a good Christian example for others?



Share the Word Sunday Reflection

For February 5, 2023

The 5th Sunday of Ordinary Time



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

First Reading: Isaiah 58: 7-10

I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me.

Responsorial: Psalm 112: 4-9

R: Who is the King of Glory; it is the Lord!

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2: 1-5

Because he himself was tested through what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Gospel: Matthew 5: 13-16

“my eyes have seen your salvation.”

"Lord, you guide me by the light of your saving truth. Fill my heart and mind with your light and truth and free me from the blindness of sin and deception that I may see your ways clearly and understand your will for my life. May I radiate your light and truth to others in word and deed."

Question of the Week: How are you a light to others?