

Five Stones Church • Sunday Sermon

How to Live as Salt and Light

September 30, 2018 // Pastor Jon Wong
Sermon highlights prepared by Gillian Lo

Key Scripture

13 “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

14 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:13-16 NIV)

Na’aseh V’nishma

When reading the Book of Matthew, we need to understand that it was written for the Jewish audience. Hence, to help us understand the scriptures, we must read it with the Jewish culture and its context in mind.

Na’aseh V’nishma—means “Obey first, and then understand later.”

- Embedded into the Jewish way of living
- E.g., a mother telling her son to clean his room, “Na’aseh!”—“Just do it!”

Jesus also “Na’aseh V’nishma”

30 I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me. (John 5:30 ESV)

Na’aseh V’nishma & T’shuvah - Our submission to God

- Na’aseh V’nishma: A complete acceptance of God’s commands and to put God before ourselves
- T’shuvah—means “To return” “Repent”
 - To cling onto God; I need God’s grace and mercy
- T’shuvah to us means to put Jesus in front us, so that we see Jesus before anything else.

Without the Light, “Repentance” could lead us into more darkness

- The common understanding and practice of repentance can be easily mistaken as replaying our wrongdoings again and again. Without the light, we run into the danger of getting sucked deeper and deeper in the “darkness” of our own sins, flaws, hurt and shortcomings.
- True repentance is to turn back towards God, the Light.
- And God has already redeemed your wrongs. He’s done that through His Son Jesus Christ.

You’re the Salt of the Earth

- Salt preserves, enhances; it seasons, draws out flavour.
- How does salt lose its taste? How do we lose our “saltiness”?
 - When we do not obey the commands God has given us.
 - When we try to live a good Christian life according to our own understanding instead of according to God’s commands.
 - When we don’t cleave onto God’s words and live according to His laws.
 - When we compromise on God’s laws.
 - When we think our way is better than God’s way. That’s Satan’s lie to Adam and Eve.

Jesus came to fulfill the Laws

17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. (Matthew 5:17, ESV)

You’re the Light of the World

- Jesus calls us to be Christians, to be His followers, to shine.
- When does a light get put under a basket? How do we cover our light?
 - When we try to blend into a culture that isn’t godly. Those are places of darkness, where we should have spoken up and shed light into the moment.
- Our job is to be God’s light so that others can see His glory.

Being Salt & Light vs. Blending in

- We need to point people to Jesus because only Jesus can save them.

Na'aseh V'nishma Experience - Jon & Stef's Journey

Jesus came to call the sinners to repentance

**32 I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.” (Luke 5:32
ESV)**