

Being Salt and Light
Series: The Church
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Things to think about:

- This series is to encourage us and to remind us that God is at work in and through our church.
- Today we are looking at our mission as servants of God, working to fulfill God's mission on earth.
- A couple of observations. One, we need to see beyond Sunday and look for how God is using Oakridge. Two, we need to be faithful and do our part as a church and as individuals.

** Some observations about churches in general:

- 1) At one time churches were the central place in many communities.
- 2) The thought was that enough programs, events, etc., would draw people to church. They still can and do but relationships matter most.
- 3) People were locked into serving only through "church" programs. We still need ministries in the church but we need to free people to serve.
- 4) People got burned out because churches expected so much.
- 5) Churches were pressured when they were not fulfilling someone's "needs." They felt they had to do more even if it meant stretching their resources. Discipleship is corporate but it is also individual.

** **God's mission in the world - Some Scriptures to consider**

- In **Jn. 1:1-14** we read that Jesus, Who was eternal God (**vs. 1**), came to earth and "pitched His tent" among us (**vs. 14**). He made the earth His home for a time. He was full of "grace and truth."
- Jesus came to seek and to save the lost (**Lk. 19:10**). He came to serve and give His life so people could be saved (**Mk. 10:45**).
- In **Jn. 13-17** Jesus gave some last instructions to the disciples. He prayed for them in **Jn. 17**. Note **Jn. 17:18**.
- In **Jn. 20:21** Jesus appears to the disciples after His resurrection and gives them their mission. He sent them and us into the world.
- **We have been given a mission to do.** The church, made up of individuals, is the vehicle God has left behind. We serve, we share. We grow, we go. We exist not for ourselves but others.

Salt And Light - Living Our Mission

** **Mt. 5-7** are Jesus' expectations for His followers. **Mt. 5:3-12** shows how we are to respond to the Holy Spirit working in our lives. We must be humble and see our need for God. We must mourn over sin. We must pursue God, be merciful and holy. These traits are needed for us to be "salt and light."

** Jesus begins **Mt. 5:13-16** with “You are the salt...” and emphasizes that people matter, that we matter, and what we do is important.

Be a seasoning agent for God

- We should people who show joy and peace. God has shown us His grace. Show it in our lives. God should bring a smile to our face.
- Think of ways we can show this. For example, encourage someone this week. Handle issues with integrity and composure.
- How we act could lead to questions because people wonder how we can be joyful under pressure.

Live in a way that people are thirsty to discover Who God is

- People should see something “different” about us in the way we live. Serve others, show them the love of Christ.

Live to impact culture (salt was a preservative for food)

- Stand for truth, show grace, be counter-cultural.
- We can influence some by living out our faith (**2 Cor. 5:17**).
- To be salt we must be in touch with people. We must also be different than the world, showing others how God helps us as we walk through life.

Be a healing agent for God

- We have the message that can heal broken hearts.

Break through the Christian bubble

- In **Mt. 5:14-16** Jesus talks about letting our light shine “before” the world around us so that they, through the things we do, may have an interest in learning more about what we believe.

We have been sent by Christ to fulfill God’s mission on earth and being “salt and light” is important to this