

# “I Am God’s Change Agent”

Series: Identity: Becoming Who We Are  
May 28, 2017 – Joel Moses

## Matthew 5:13-16

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. <sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

SALT:

LIGHT:

### As You Go Out to Salt and Light Your World

- Cultivate your own inner life with God.
- Pray for Opportunities
- Rely on God to draw people to Himself
- Build relationships, invest time, and serve people.
- Identify with others through what we share in common (experiences and feelings).
- Learn to articulate your story.
- Share your story.
- Love.

“Your real... self... will not come as long as you are looking for it. It will come when you are looking for Him.” - C.S. Lewis

“Most people spend a lifetime trying to become what they already are.” - Neil Anderson

## **“I Am God’s Change Agent” Group Discussion**

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Who are you? Where do you find your sense of self and self worth? It is a life defining question. In our current series we’re focusing on the transforming power of discovering our true identity in Christ. This week we’re exploring God’s call on our lives to be agents of change in our world.

**Read together Jesus’ words in 5:13-16:** 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. <sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

### **What are some characteristics of salt?**

Why do you believe Jesus gave us *salt* as one of the defining elements of our identities?

In what ways is salt an agent of change?

What does it mean to “lose saltiness?” How can we avoid this?

Read Romans 12:2. Discuss.

### **What are some characteristics of light?**

Why do you believe Jesus gave us *light* as one of the defining elements of our identities?

What does it mean to “put a lamp under a bowl”? How can we avoid this?

**Soren Kierkegaard**, the Danish theologian & philosopher, told this parable, which he called “The Wild Duck of Denmark.” Read it together.

“A wild duck was flying northward with his mates across Europe during the springtime. En route, he happened to land in a barnyard in Denmark, where he quickly made friends with the tame ducks that lived there. The wild duck enjoyed the corn and fresh water. He decided to stay for an hour, then for a day, then for a week, and finally, for a month. At the end of that time, he contemplated flying to join his friends in the vast North land, but he had begun to enjoy the safety of the barnyard, and the tame ducks had made him feel so welcome. So he stayed for the summer. One autumn day, when his wild mates were flying south, he heard their quacking. It stirred him with delight, and he enthusiastically flapped his wings and rose into the air to join them. Much to his dismay, he found that he could rise no higher than the eaves of the barn. As he waddled back to the safety of the barnyard, he muttered to himself, “I’m satisfied here, I have plenty of food, and the area is good. Why should I leave.?” So, he spent the winter on the farm. In the spring, when the wild ducks flew overhead again, he felt a strange stirring within his breast, but he did not even try to fly up to meet them. When they returned in the fall, they again invited him to rejoin them, but this time, the duck did not even notice them. There was no stirring within his breast. He simply kept on eating corn which made him fat.” End of parable.

**Discuss.**

What is this parable about?

How might God speak to you through this parable?

**We are destined to fly.** Sadly, we can see the things the world offers and get distracted from flying.... Ultimately becoming "tame". We settle. We live the status quo. And just get fat.

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Do you see following Jesus as a wild adventure? Why or why not?

How is God calling you to be an agent of change for His Purposes in this world / in your context?

How can you salt your world more this week?

How can we pray for you to let your light shine more brightly?

(spend time in prayer for one another)