

Dispensers of Happiness / Pursuit of Happiness 10

We live in a confused world – a world that glorifies sexual abuse of women – in movies like 50 Shades of Grey and yet justly cries foul for women who have been being abused in Hollywood or any work place in the current #metoo move.

** Our world is in desperate need of the church to be salt & light. Look at the hurt, the confusion, the need for truth/grace*

We live in a city and community we love – yet that is divided in so many ways – racially, socially, politically -

** Our city is in desperate need of the church to be salt and light. Look at the hurt, the confusion, the need for truth/grace*

If Jesus has replaced your death sentence with His life bc you trust Jesus has taken your death sentence – then you are a son or daughter of God and as such you are salt and light ... and as such, Jesus said we can impact this world. But do

*you believe the Church, across our country our city, is making the impact it can? Let's bring it closer to home. Do you think we (Summit) are making the impact we can? I see God at work – oh how I see God at work in us. But I'm asking do you think we are making the impact we can **in the world** - as His salt & His light? Abraham Lincoln said*

"It is not the years in your life that matter but the life in your years that truly matter." *Jesus is inviting us into years that are full of life, his life as salt and light. Today – he is pleading with us, stronger yet, calling us to fill our years with His life – so that His life thru us can impact the world and people, now and for eternity. How?*

I Thessalonians 5:5-6, 9-11 (ESV) 5 For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. 6 So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep **awake** ... 9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us so that whether we are **awake** or asleep we might live with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another ... **awaken**

*I believe God has a word for us today that He wants to keep before us for a while. That word: **awaken**. What does that mean? Literally – to wake up & stay awake to the greatness of our God, who loves us & is with us no matter our condition. To be awakened in such a way that every morning we say to God: I am your man, your woman - and I will follow you wherever you ask & do what ever you ask. Will you pray this with us this morning - "**awaken us.**" **PRAY:(4)***

As God **awakens** us – I believe this morning he will move us to follow Him to be the salt and light we are in Him.

Matthew 5:13, 14, 16 (ESV) 13 You are the salt of the earth. ... 14 You are the light of the world. ... 16 ... let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

We are called to live as salt and light that display the glory of God. Glory being the overwhelming greatness of God that makes him the Great Reward or Treasure as Jesus calls God in vs 12. The promise of living as salt and light: God will be seen & known as the Greatest above all things. I believe God wants to awaken us in 2 ways:

- 1) Awaken us to taste and see He alone – is glorious – the Greatest One
- 2) Awaken us to the beauty & power of lives that are full of His salt and His light. *Here's our main truth for today.*

When we awaken to God's glory - we begin to live open & winsome displays of God's glory.

01. Awaken us to the beauty and power of lives that are an open and winsome display of Your glory.
02. Awaken us to taste and see You alone – as glorious - the Greatest One. (6)

01. Awaken us to the beauty & power of lives that are an open and winsome display of Your glory.

Matthew 5:13-16 (ESV) 13 "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. 14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

salt – good works where we taste like Jesus

winsome – kind, engaging, inviting (*thoughtfully counterculture – not hatefully anti-culture*)

light – transforms the darkness thru the presence and power of Jesus

open – public, honest, openly transformative (*to change for the good cities, neighborhoods, families*)

Jesus spent more that ½ of this passage – telling us what His salt and light does not look like. Why? Bc often, the lives of the church of Jesus Christ are not open and winsome – declaring the glory of God. So let's look at ...

When our "work" is not "salt and light" or "good"

- **Fearful Recluses** - *we hide for fear of persecution or loss / Salt loses it taste bc of lack of concentration. Vs 13*
Is this you? You don't want to lose friends, you don't want to be that lady on your block. You hide bc you are fearful of loss.

- **Self-Righteous Hiders** – we hide for fear the “world” will contaminate or affect our purity before God and or each other. / Do you look at non-Christians with contempt? Do you believe they can affect our purity before God. We can't be salt and light – and avoid those who don't love Jesus. You won't go to if you look down on. Is this you? **(13)**
- **Protectors** – we cling to old methods that distract or don't work in communicating the gospel, or we cling to a way of life that has more to do with comfort or preference than the gospel / We hold to political views, church methods old and new, my people being in charge at the school, we cling to protecting our way of life. We refuse to engage others with Jesus in a way that is uncomfortable to us – but is effective, winsome if you will to others.
- **Masters of Disguises** – we cloak our works in a way where Jesus is not offensive **Vs 14-15**
We serve, care, and love others but never mention Jesus or the gospel. Jesus, gospel convo – doesn't have to be or need to be how we lead. Go, pray, serve, listen – but at some point if we never do – we are hiding the LIGHT.
- **Screamers** – we yell at the darkness, we are only against things – so the gospel rarely gets heard
Screamers use social media to yell at non-Christian things or people. We also rant at home or sometimes in public places. **When someone is lost in dark cave – screaming at them does no good. Turning on a light – brings hope, rescue, and change.**

14 A city set on a hill ... 15 ... on a stand, - it gives light to all in the house. What are good works?

Practicals of “good works” that are salt and light Let's give Godly correction to bad works & God's order to good works

- Communal, Actions - that are informed and shaped by the gospel - that are kind, engaging, and inviting
- Communal, Conversations - that are informed and shaped by the gospel – that are kind, engaging, & inviting
- The actual words of the gospel – that promise rescue and healing by the work of Jesus alone.

Informed and shaped by the gospel means – I know my holiness before God is based on Jesus work not anything I do or who I get near. So we have freedom in Christ – not to dance as close to sin as possible – but rather to dance as close to sinners as possible. When we go together – we can reach in love and not give in to sin.

John 4 - Woman at the well – crossed cultural lines-women, racial lines-Samaritan, religious-not clean – 5 husbands and living w a man now. He was salt to this woman – listen, engaging, caring – when no one else had or did

- **How you as a lady engage a confident young girl who wants marital wisdom – so you are kind, engaging, inviting.**
- **Engaging the “troubled” teen everyone has given up on in your neighborhood with grace and strength.**
- **Serving in your PTO and being a different voice of hope at your kids school.**
- **Hurting with a hurting soul at the sharing shed**
- **Traveling across the street to sit at a fire pit and engage as a winsome counter cultural voice and not hide or hate.**

Principles of “good works” that are salt and light

- In these “good works”, we will see people want Jesus and be transformed by Jesus. *people, homes, neigh, cities*
- The gospel is beautiful and offensive to all – *but some will be rescued by Jesus and His gospel.*
- We are to be kind, engaging, and inviting at all times – not offensive – remembering we can rescue none.
- **Traveling across the aisle and listening to that lady at work who really has been victimized by so many men – and caring for and ushering her into gospel healing and not just bitterness.**
- **Traveling to Mubai (fall) to serve with those who are helping sex trafficking and starting churches in dark places.**
- **Traveling across the street to listen to and engage a neighbor in divorce of a different creed or color to be their friend and in your friendship bring the hope and light of the gospel.**

John 4 – Jesus didn't cross all these lines just to be cool, winsome – give the Jews a better name. He crossed these lines so this woman could see God as the greatest of all. Where do we worship? Not about where – but Who you worship. Used a word for worship here that means – to kiss toward. He explained a type of covenant love she had never known and it blew her away. Thru tears she said – when God sends his teacher – I will understand. Jesus – I am he –he touched and healed her broken wounded heart. The disciples return and are stunned – but they are awakened to the glory of God by the way Jesus lived as salt and light on this day.

This life is powerful and when we see it lived out in front of us – it can awaken us to see the overwhelming greatness of God's glory. Who are you in community with that lives this life in front of you so you can be encouraged, awaken, and you can learn from? Remember – salt alone is not salty. May the stunning beauty of this begin to awaken us! There was a second part of our prayer – that God would awaken us to Him – His glory. (26)

01. Awaken us to the beauty & power of lives that are an open and winsome display of Your glory.

02. Awaken us to taste and see You alone – as glorious - the Greatest One.

Can't separate these 2 prayers. The point: when we are awakened to God's glory, we will be displays of God's glory. And being awakened sometimes happens as we taste the salt of Jesus or are impacted by the light that transforms us from another. That has happened to many of you but I pray now that some of will be awaken by the Spirit right now. Sometimes, we are

awakened in bed, on a mountain, in worship, by the Word, in prayer – when the Spirit grabs us and says – Jesus alone is the Greatest. And the result is the same – we wake up daily saying God my desires will take me all over the place – I am your man, I will go wherever you ask and do whatever you ask.

Isaiah 43:7 (ESV) Everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.

We were created or made to know and live in relationship with the Greatest One of all.

We were created for His glory – to live in His glory and enjoy His glory.

But our sin, our rebellion – separates us from God's glory and his glory requires he judge our sin

YET – God did not want us to live apart from him.

So because of His great love, HE came to us – took our place and rescued us and now fully accepts us in His love.

God is GREATEST of ALL. Yet he loves you & I who are the lowest of all -with a great reckless love.

God is the greatest of all things, all beings, all people, all gods – HE is the greatest one and what is crazy.

This God loves you more than you will ever possibly know by your own reasoning or your own measuring – that's why we must be awakened to Him and his greatness and his love for us.

• Are you asleep or deadened to this amazing glory of God?

I Thessalonians 5:5-6 (ESV) 5 For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. 6 So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake ...

We are called to be "awake" to God - not asleep with heavy eyes by the cares of this life that fill our years.

How do we awake to His wondrous glory? to live years full of life? 1st - **get around lives full of salt and light**

• Pray: Father, awaken us to Your glory – so it moves us to love you and others with Your passion.

Luke 9:28-32 (ESV) [Read 28-32] 32 ... but when they became fully awake they saw his glory ...

Jesus took these three – his closest companions – up the mountain to pray, to meet with God- and they fell asleep. This would not be the first or last time the dozed off on Jesus when He went to pray with them and needed their companionship. They weren't just taking a light power nap, rather Luke says they were heavy with sleep or deep in sleep, knocked out, REM dream state of sleep, drool stage. Yet for some reason, they come to ...

I believe Jesus woke them. "Don't miss this. Don't miss me. This is who I am. Wake up!"

Asleep – they would have missed his glory. Awake – they see His glory. For us this is true as well. Where are you?

Father, awaken us to Your glory –

Luke 9:33-36 (ESV) 33 ... not knowing what he said. The point of seeing His glory was lost on them. Peter wanted to make that place a place of worship. Build a tent – tabernacle – even for Elijah and Moses.

34 As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. 35 And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!" 36 And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone.

The point – wasn't to make that place a place of worship. It was to see and experience Jesus as THE ONE to worship. Just like he told the lady at the well. He is the Greatest – worship Him with your whole life. To make the point – this moment ends with Jesus alone. God takes the other 2 and leaves no one but Jesus. What happens next, they come off the mountain and Jesus engages people.

– so it moves us to love you and others with Your passion. (Will you pray this today, tomorrow, etc.)

Story – Gay Cowboy Bar – Would we go? Would you go any place Jesus calls us to be salt and light even if it is way out of your comfort zone -your way of life? Your life will probably be filled with a lot of years. I pray today – God awakens you to His glory for the first time or awakens you afresh to his glory. I pray this would allow you to have many years that are full of life – living as salt and life – open and winsome displays of His glory.

1] Prayer – That God would move in us – awaken us to His glory.

Confess – the cares of this world that have weighed you down, or the wrong ways you have displayed his glory.

Pray for God's glory to move us today – to love him and love others. I want to invite you to do something today that will be a visible sign of asking God to awaken you and us.

2] Go to the tables – get a cup of salt and a candle – come back to your seat.

Touch the salt to your lips – remember, YOU ARE the salt of the earth. God awaken us to you – let us be your salt. Light the candle as it comes around – remember, YOU ARE the light of the world. God awaken us to you – let us be your light.

Commissioning

Matthew 5:16 - let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.