

Mountains and Valleys

Lesson 3:

Reconstructing Your Faith
in an Age of Deconstruction

Matthew 5

13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty [again?] It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by people. 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 the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 "Your light must shine before people in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

Matthew 5:13-16

Two metaphors Jesus used to describe His devoted followers:

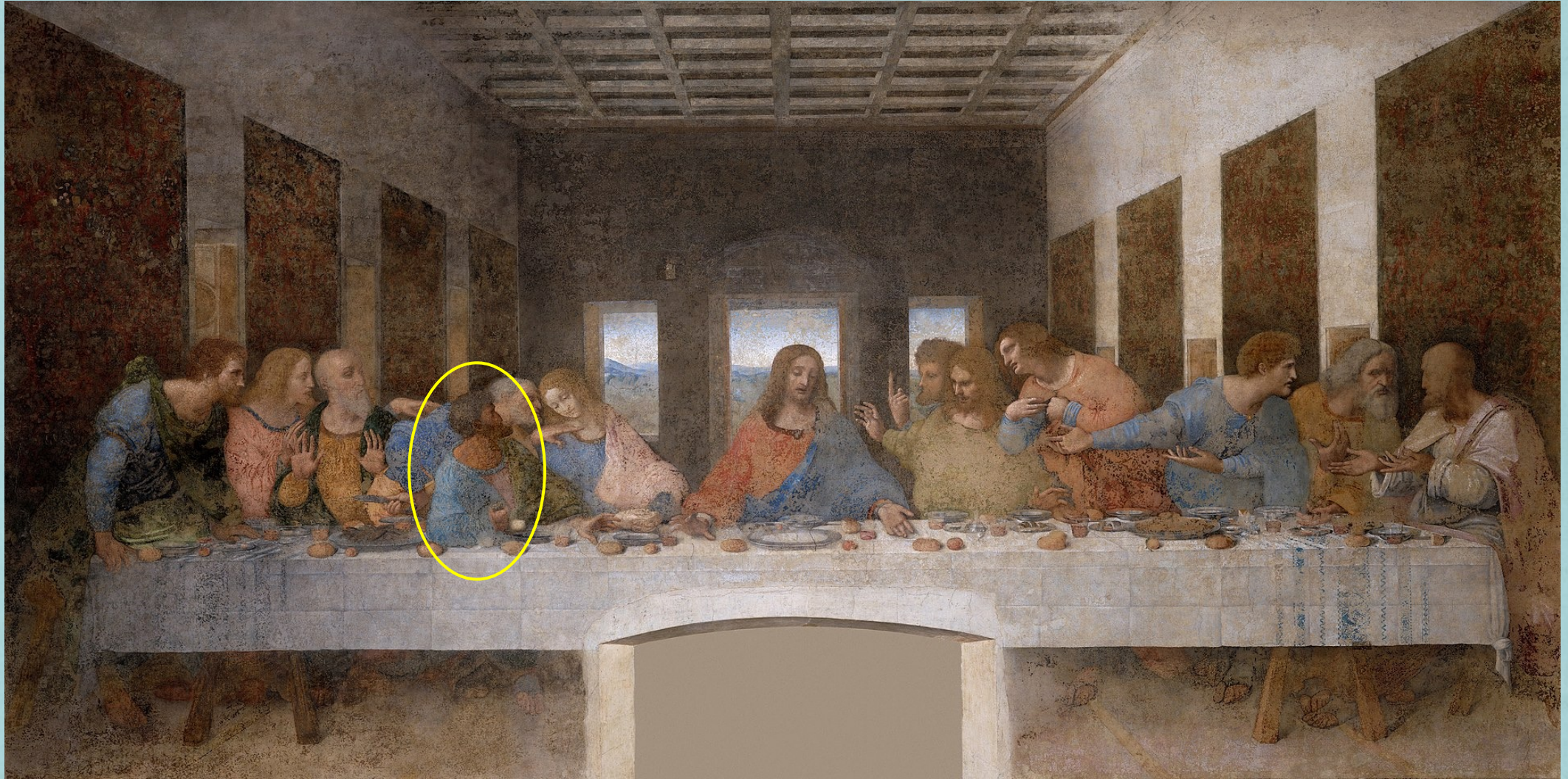
- Salt of the Earth
- Light of the World

*He's saying that we are to have **influence** and **impact** globally.*

“The poor in spirit will demonstrate to others the need for the grace that only Christ can offer. Those who are comforted by the Spirit in their mourning will grab the attention of those who mourn without hope. Because of their acts of mercy toward those in need, the merciful will draw people to themselves and point people to the God of mercy. Peacemakers will be sought out by those who are weary of being embroiled in constant conflict.”

“And in numerous other ways, Christians engaged in kingdom living as described in the Beatitudes will influence others’ opinions, prompt their decisions, and encourage their actions in a positive direction. This kind of influence occurs without coercion, force, or command. It happens by example. The influence we can have doesn’t come by being just like the world around us, but by being different from the world around us.”

Charles R. Swindoll





'Every grain offering of yours, moreover, you shall season with salt, so that the salt of the covenant of your God will not be lacking from your grain offering; with all your offerings you shall offer salt.'

Leviticus 2:13

34 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Take for yourself spices--stacte, onycha, and galbanum, spices and pure frankincense; there shall be an equal part of each. 35 You shall make incense from it [all,] a skillful mixture, the work of a perfumer, **salted**, pure, [and] holy."

Exodus 30:34-35

19 "And this is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the Light; for their deeds were evil. 20 "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light, so that his deeds will not be exposed. 21 "But the one who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds will be revealed as having been performed in God."

John 3:19-21

A FEW THINGS **SALT** AND **LIGHT** HAVE IN COMMON:


- BOTH ARE NEEDED TO SUSTAIN LIFE



14 Do all things without complaining or arguments;
15 so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless
and innocent, children of God above reproach in the
midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among
whom you appear as lights in the world, 16 holding
firmly the word of life...

Philippians 2:14-16

A FEW THINGS **SALT** AND **LIGHT** HAVE IN COMMON:

- BOTH ARE NEEDED TO SUSTAIN LIFE
 - BOTH HAVE PURIFYING, HEALING QUALITIES
 - BOTH HAVE PENETRATING PROPERTIES
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“The Bible is not the light of the world, it is the light of the Church. But the world does not read the Bible, the world reads Christians! ‘You are the light of the world.’”

Charles Spurgeon