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**Calgary Life Church**  
**September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**“Influence By Design”**

*“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. “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 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. 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.*

**Matthew 5:13–16 (ESV):**

- You are the salt of the Earth - You are the light of the World
- Sociologists say - That even the most introverted person will have an influence on at least 10,000 people in their lifetime.
- *‘The question is not will you be, the question of what type of influence will you be?*
- *You can have a negative influence and leave a scar - you know they were there because of the pain the caused.*
- *You can have negative influence and leave a smudge - you know they were there - because of the mess they left behind.*
- *You can have a powerful influence and leave an impact - you know they were there because of the helped you and changed you.*

**1. You have to own the Mandate.**

**“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. **“You are the light of the world.** A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 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. 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. **Matthew 5:13–16 (ESV)**

- For the CHRISTIAN - influence should be driven by design and not by default.

### **You are Salt**

- Salt preserves - salt purifies and salt accentuates.
- Salt brings out the flavor of the ingredients in the meal.
- The object of salt as an ingredient is to go unnoticed, and to bring out the flavors of the ingredients in the meal.
- No salt - the food is bland.
- Too much salt and that's all you can taste.
- The right amount - perfection.

### **You are Light**

- Light guides, - light reveals and light brings out the detail.
- For the most part light operates the same way - The light serves to illuminate the world around it.
- Light brings out the color - brings out the details - shows the beauty.
- No Light - We live in the Dark.
- Too much light and it's blinding.
- The right amount - perfection.

### **You are the Salt of the Earth - You are the light of the World**

- Salt in the earth is actually a harmful thing - so this is not about location.
- Salt of the earth and light of the World is about people.
- The people of the earth aren't the salt and light - Jesus is addressing His followers to be salt and light in the world around them.
  
- **Our mandate is influence - positive - life giving influence - people should be better when they hang with us - our communities should be better because of us - our world should be better.**

***You are the salt - You are the Light - it's influence by design***

## 2. You have to own your actions.

*“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. “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 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. 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. Matthew 5:13–16 (ESV)*

**Jesus gives three illustrations of how we can diminish our influence - or create negative influence - Salt losing its flavor - a city in seclusion and a lamp concealed.**

### Salt losing its flavour -

- The word used here to describe salt losing its flavor means - Become foolish, non-sense, disorder, insipid.
- Romans 1:22 "and they began to think up foolish ideas ..."
- 1 Cor 1:20 "God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. “Nothing will destroy your influence quicker than crazy - nothing will destroy your influence quicker than weird.

**Matt 5:11** *"God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers"*

### A city in seclusion

- A city is not built on a hill to hide, it is in the hill to be seen by all.

*“I have given them your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I’m not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. They do not belong to this world any more than I do. Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world.” John 17:14-18 NLT*

### A lamp concealed.

- You don’t light a lamp to cover it, you put it on a table and allow it to bring light to the darkness.
- God hasn’t called you to be a concealed Christian.

*“For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile.”* **Romans 1:16 NLT**

- Very few of God’s heroes felt up to the task.
  - Moses a speech issue
  - Gideon a confidence issue
  - Mary a situational issue
  - Even Jesus tried to side step His first miracle.

***You are the salt - You are light - it’s influence by design - so we remove every self-created obstacle out of the way to have a positive influence.***

### **3. You have to own your platform.**

*“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. “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 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. 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.**”* Matthew 5:13–16 (ESV)

**A lamp is placed on a lamp stand so it can give light to the whole house.**

**That they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.**

*“ Watch out! Don’t do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven.”* **Matthew 6:1 NLT**

- it’s not a contradiction - it’s about a focus
- one focuses on ourselves being seen doing good things for our own reward and our own glory the other is on people being helped and God getting the glory.

***You are the salt - You are light - it’s influence by design - so we remove every self-created obstacle out of the way to have a positive influence - a bring the world around us closer to Jesus.***