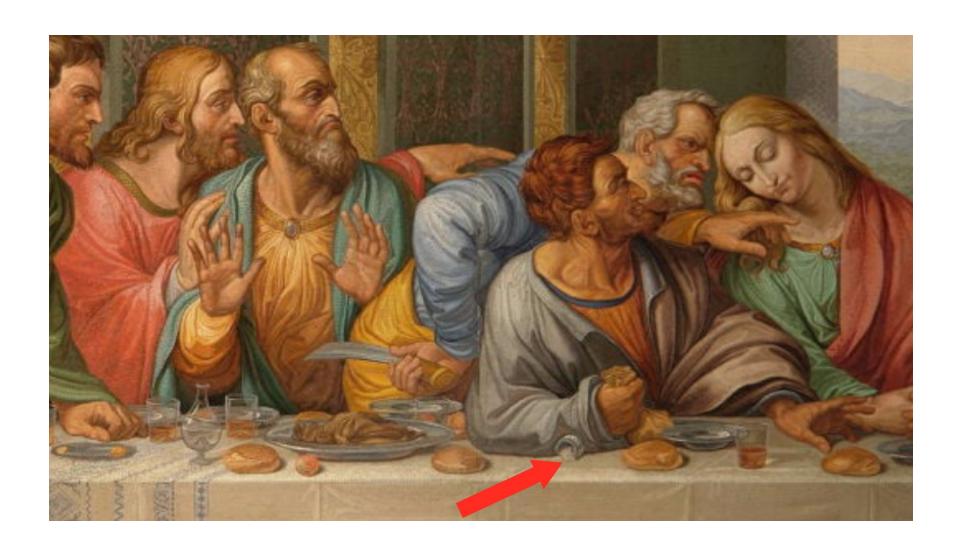


"You are the salt of the earth" (13a)





Three Primary Interpretations

 Salt calls attention to God's <u>covenant</u> faithfulness. Salt calls attention to God's <u>covenant</u> <u>faithfulness</u>.

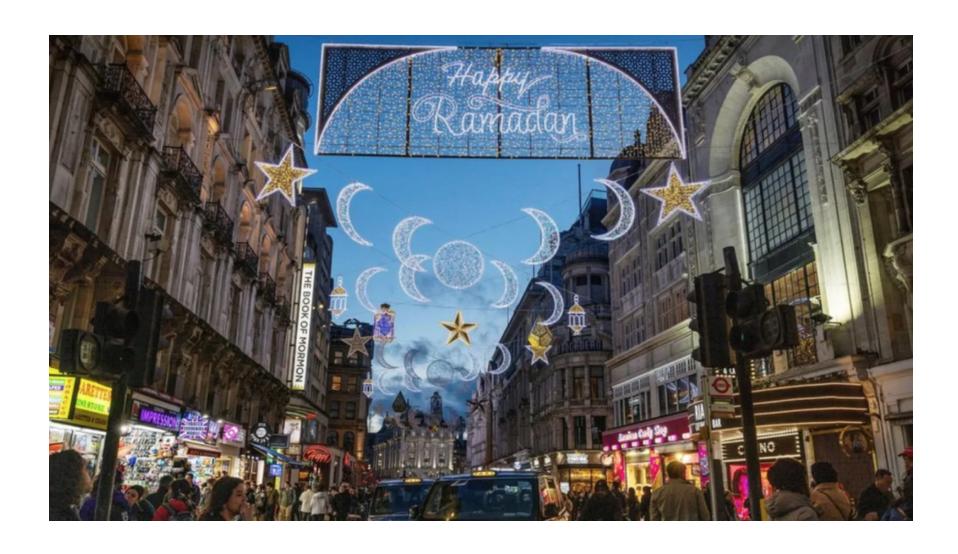
"You shall season all your grain offerings with salt. You shall not let the salt of the covenant with your God be missing from your grain offering; with all your offerings you shall offer salt." Leviticus 2:13

- 1. Salt calls attention to God's <u>covenant</u> <u>faithfulness</u>.
- 2. Salt brings out the best in society.

- 1. Salt calls attention to God's <u>covenant</u> faithfulness.
- 2. Salt brings out **the best in society**. "Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person."

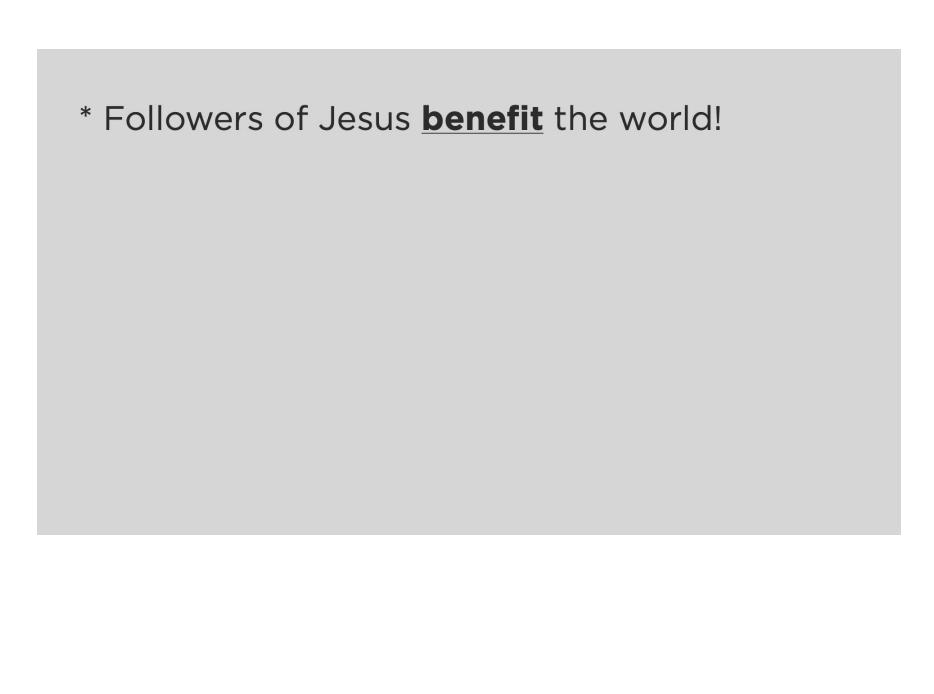
 Colossians 4:6

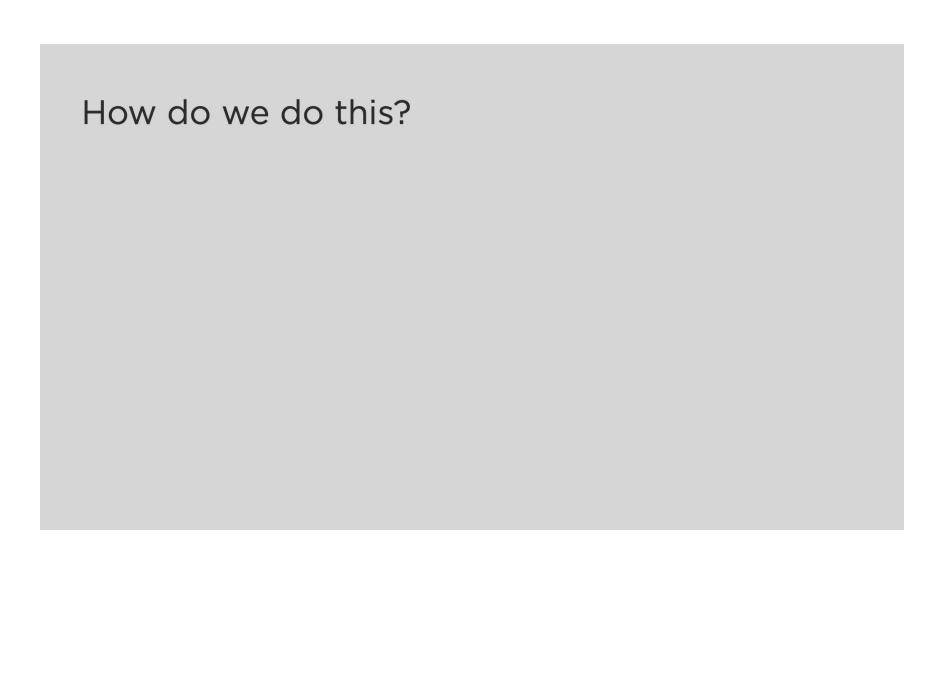
- 1. Salt calls attention to God's <u>covenant</u> <u>faithfulness</u>.
- 2. Salt brings out the best in society.
- 3. Salt preserves society from <u>corruption</u> and <u>decay</u>.



"I must say I am slightly horrified to hear that Ramadan is being promoted instead [of Easter]. I feel that we are a Christian country."

Richard Dawkins





viable

viable

"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." (13)

"I am not religious, so it is not my place to dictate to Christians what they should and should not believe. "Still, if someone has a faith worth following, I feel that their beliefs should make me feel uncomfortable for not doing so. "If they share 90 percent of my lifestyle and values, then there is nothing especially inspiring about them.

"Instead of making me want to become more like them, it looks very much as if they want to become more like me."

Ben Sixsmith

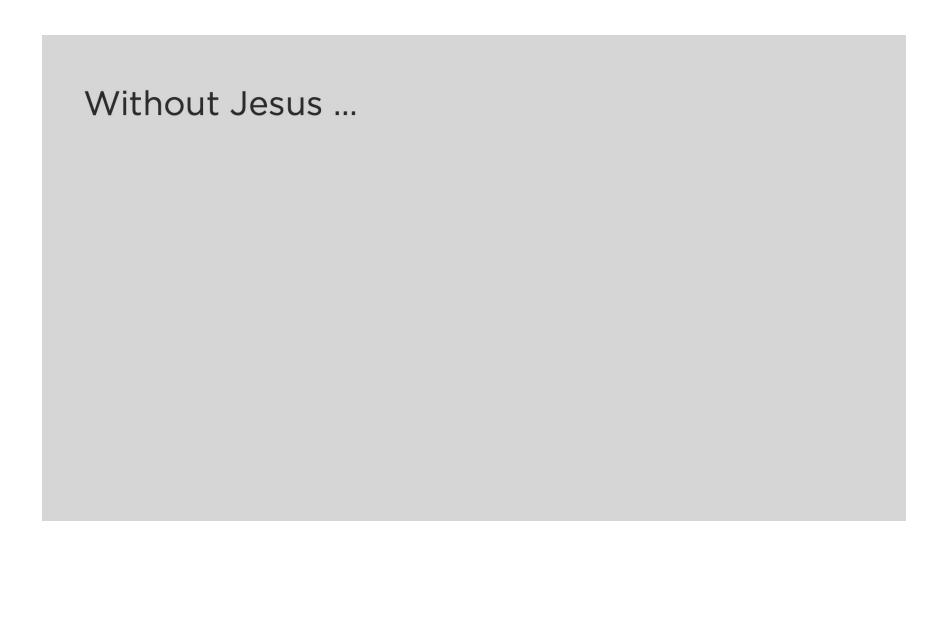
"My fear is the church is not doing what so many of us on the outside would like it to do; which is to be preaching its Gospel, to be asserting its truths and its claims. "When one sees it falling into all of the latest tropes, one just thinks ... 'Well, that's another thing gone. It's like absolutely everything else in this boring, monotone, ill-thought out and shallow dialectic."

Douglas Murray

- viable
- visible

- viable
- visible

"You are the light of the world." (14a)



• We were <u>darkness</u>. (Eph. 5:8)

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- We lived in darkness. (Matt. 4:16)

- We were **darkness**. (Eph. 5:8)
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- We loved <u>darkness</u>. (John 3:19)

- We were <u>darkness</u>. (Eph. 5:8)
- We lived in darkness. (Matt. 4:16)
- We loved **darkness**. (John 3:19)
- We practiced <u>works of darkness</u>. (Rom. 3:12)

• Our hearts become full of <u>light</u>. (2 Cor. 4:6)

- Our hearts become full of <u>light</u>. (2 Cor. 4:6)
- We become children of light. (Eph. 5:8)

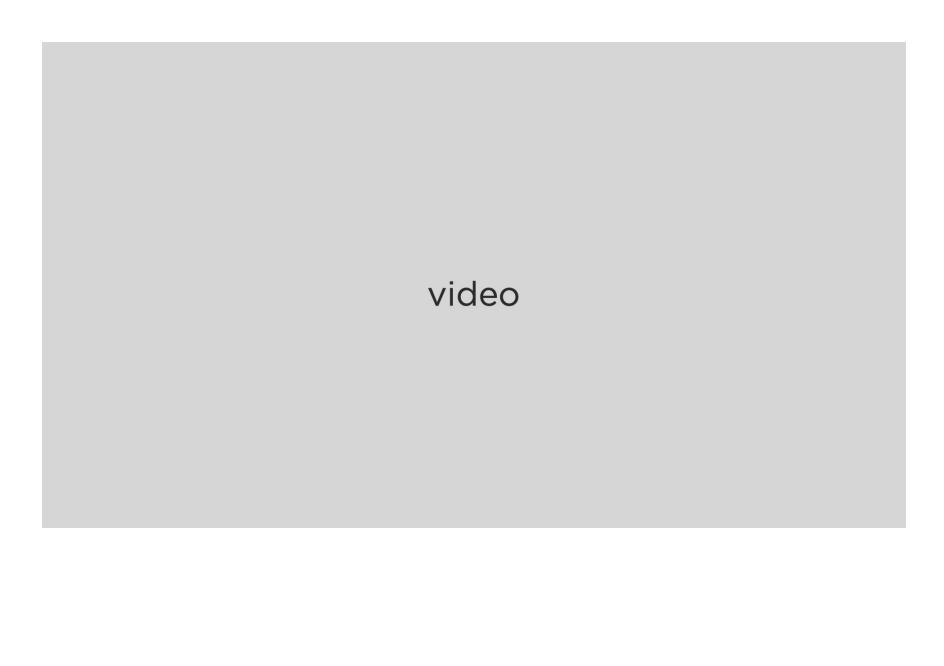
- Our hearts become full of <u>light</u>. (2 Cor. 4:6)
- We become children of light. (Eph. 5:8)
- We put on armor of <u>light</u>. (Rom. 13:12)

- Our hearts become full of <u>light</u>. (2 Cor. 4:6)
- We become children of light. (Eph. 5:8)
- We put on armor of <u>light</u>. (Rom. 13:12)
- We become <u>lights</u> in a dark world. (Phil. 2:15)

Jesus uses two illustrations to communicate our visibility:

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#1 - "A city set on a hill cannot be hidden"





Jesus uses two illustrations to communicate our visibility:

- #1 "A city set on a hill cannot be hidden"
- #2 "Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a **basket**"

"Flight into the invisible is a denial of the call."

A community of Jesus which seeks to hide itself has ceased to follow him."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"In the same way, let your light shine **before others**, so that they may see...." (16a)





WITH GOD'S FAMILY



CONNECT

WITH GOD'S FAMILY

SHARE

GOD'S STORY

We benefit the world as we are ...

- viable
- visible
- valuable

We benefit the world as we are ...

- viable
- visible
- valuable

"so that they may see your good works ..." (16b)

agathos = good in character

agathos = good in character kalos = good in quality, but also in appearance "Any accurate portrait of Antioch in New Testament times must depict a city filled with misery, danger, fear, despair, and hatred. "A city where the average family lived a squalid life in filthy and cramped quarters, where at least half of the children died at birth or during infancy, and where most of the children who lived lost at least one parent before reaching maturity.

"A city filled with hatred and fear, rooted in intense ethnic antagonisms and exacerbated by a constant stream of strangers.

"A city so lacking in stable networks of attachments that petty incidents could prompt mob violence. A city where crime flourished, and the streets were dangerous at night.

"And, perhaps above all, a city repeatedly smashed by cataclysmic catastrophes: where a resident could expect literally to be homeless from time to time, providing that he or she was among the survivors."

Rodney Stark

"[Stark] was puzzled at how a marginalized, persecuted, often uneducated group of people were able not only to survive, but thrive....

"He concludes that a key reason was their willingness to sacrifice themselves out of love for each other and for their world. This sacrifice released an explosion of light and heat the world had never known."

Shaunti Feldhahn

"The willingness of Christians to care for others was put on dramatic public display....
Pagans tried to avoid all contact with the afflicted, often casting the still-living into the gutters.

"Christians, on the other hand, nursed the sick, even though [some] died doing so....
Christians also were visible and valuable during the frequent natural and social disasters afflicting the Greco-Roman world: earthquakes, famines, floods, riots, civil wars, and invasions.

"Even in healthier times, the pagan emperor,
Julian, noted the followers of The Way
'support not only their poor, but ours as well."
Rodney Stark

We benefit the world as we are ...

- viable
- visible
- valuable
- vertical

We benefit the world as we are ...

- viable
- visible
- valuable
- vertical
- "... so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." (16b)

"I try to keep myself located within God's Grand Story, rather than the busyness of the moment. When I have Christ and our glorious inheritance in mind, it allows me to lay aside any pressure that may come from the immediate.

"With that said, when I talk with others, I try to find and highlight things that Christians and non-Christians would agree are good, true ... and beautiful. "For example, rather than getting into a political discussion about the state of our communities, I try to embark on conversations like, 'What makes a good community?'

"Many of the answers my non-Christian friends and coworkers give (strong communal feel, courtesy for neighbors; actual, personalized help for those in need; educational and economic opportunity for everyone; trustworthy leaders ...) are in line with and come from Christianity!

"From here, I can agree with them and show how the heart of God and the gospel lines up with these ideas. It allows me to highlight ways that Christian churches and ministries are addressing these needs. "And sometimes, most importantly, I can grieve with them that so many of these things are non-existent in our communities. "These conversations require thinking longterm. I am not trying to 'win' an argument or assert my way in a conversation. "I want to show them how many things they value line up with the Gospel and help them see God's heart for humanity. Often they are incredibly surprised!

"My goal is that I interact with them in a way that they trust me enough to ask another question in the future....

"When I interact with somebody in public, I want their day to be better because they interacted with me. Even if it is simply a smile and a 'hello.' I think God can move in the simplest of things!

"Imagine if Christians were known as the kindest, most interested people, even if they are a bit weird."

• a retired couple -

- a retired couple -
- a young couple -

- a retired couple -
- a young couple -
- a retired man -

- a retired couple -
- a young couple -
- a retired man -
- numerous men -



- a retired couple -
- a young couple -
- a retired man -
- numerous men -
- meals to the homeless -



