

Oct 16th 2005: Our Lord's Purpose for His Church: Matthew 5:1-16

Over the last several years I have grown in my concern for those in our community who do not know Jesus as their Saviour.

I have also wrestled with the question of what we as a body of believers can do to more effectively reach others with the message of God's love.

I used to think that it was all so simple.....

Just get the non-believers in.....I would preach & with the HS backing...IF....

But over the years I have come to realise.....that the task of.....

Everyone is involved in 100%

It's our lives.....are the vehicle God uses....to carry His message of...from His heart

It's similar to the way manufacturers use adverts on tv to convey their message

They show us a real life incident....in the expectation

We will be attracted by what we see.....But afterwards will remember.....

Take the ad with puppy.....That toilet paper is WHAT? Soft.....

God like an Omnipotent Advertising Agency Executive

Sets each of us up daily in places.....

Where he wants us to reveal →Love, joy,

An example of this.....Mother Teresa

A closer example is Don in hospital.....

THIS IS THE WAY JESUS MEANT IT TO BE.....as our reading shows

Look how Matt 5 begins 5:1.....

What did Jesus think when He saw the crowds..??

He then began to talk.....NOT to the crowds.....**But** to His disciples

For His disciples.....**vehicles for showing them God's love**.....best way of life

Jesus is saying to them.....As my followers.....

These are the characteristics of a life that you will now live out...By the power HS
And it will make you Triumphantly Happy.....& they seek it too

Here Jesus presents....Whole new approach to living

And the person who follows this way.....Will be seen as different

1. **The Poor In Spirit** are those who recognize in their heart that they are poor in the sense that they have no power in themselves to help them do what God requires them to do. *Not proud.....rely on an inner strength*
2. **They that Mourn** are those who are sorrowful both for their own sins and failings, and also for the evil that is rampant in the world.....*sorrow & sympathy*
3. **The Meek** are those who humble themselves before God and refuse to consider themselves better than others, because they acknowledge their utter dependency upon Him. *Gentle towards others.....look out for needy*
4. **Those who Hunger and Thirst** after Righteousness are those who long to see God's final triumph over evil and His Kingdom come, but also seek to do what is right and just in this world right now. *They stand against injustice....refuse to be part*
5. The merciful are those who are so conscious that they themselves are sinners who have received God's mercy, that they go out of their way to show mercy to others around them. *They refuse to be judgmental.....undeserved mercy*
6. The pure in heart are the single minded who do not try to serve God and the world at the same time. To do and dwell upon that which pleases God is their first priority.
7. The Peacemakers are those who are themselves at peace with God and therefore seek every opportunity to bring peace into situations of alienation and conflict. *Don't stir dissension.....but value peace*
8. **Those who are Persecuted** for Righteousness' Sake suffer solely because they choose to uphold God's standards of truth, justice and purity. They stand for what they believe in and suffer the cost for so doing. *They don't compromise faith*

Think how diff.....makes you to the typical Joe Blow

Are they going to mourn over their sins & failings.....Not admit to having any
Will they show mercy to those who don't deserve it.....Not likely
And what about seeking to please God as the 1st priority.....I don't think so !!

It's on account of this difference.....Salt Of The Earth →v13.....
*(I remember....smiths chips came in waxed paper bags....Salt in purple.....
It was separate because it was so diff.....)*

Like the salt in the packet.....we have to live out this diff.....**outside of**....effective
If we are only all these things inside these 4 walls...
People will never understand what xtianity is all about

*(the other day...building with a bra.....IN Singapore.....Because they had
I could better understand what that bra on a building stood for.)*

The plan of Jesus for us.....don't just take His message of a new life out.....
Once or twice.....in some gimicky...**But that we take it out everyday....our lifestyle**

That's why He goes on and saysYOU are the Light...So don't shut yourself away
But go out.....and everyday shine for me by living out the differences....in act & attitude

Now I'm really glad He used the word Light...Can come in so many forms→candle 2
Each is just right for a particular place or use

A candle...quite hopeless on a search & rescue boat....Just think what a searchlight..

God knows you.....And He has placed you.....everyday spot.....can be the type
That you are best suited to be

The challenge of course.....is to take away this list of things.....make us different
They are happening to some degree in each of us
And ask God to show you.....the areas you need to work on....Be better vehicles 4..