



I ❤️ MY
CHURCH

I Love My Church By Sharing
Valley Forge Baptist ♦ July 9, 2017
Pastor Scott Wendal ♦ Matthew 5:13-16

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. JOHN 13:35

When I love my church, it literally opens the doors for us to impact our community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In Matthew 5, Jesus Christ is extremely concerned about who we are, what we say, and how we live. Jesus climbs a hill facing the Sea of Galilee and He begins speaking to this crowd of maybe 5,000. It's called the Sermon on the Mount. He begins with the Beatitudes, v. 1-10. He then promises we will face persecution and receive rewards. Then Jesus gives three metaphors to call us to go into this world and share His message of salvation.

What is He telling us to be and to do? He is telling us to Share His Message of Love.

Why we are here as a church –

“To know Christ and to make Christ known!”

If the unbelievers of this world are going to see Christ, then they are going to have to recognize Him in us. We are the only Christ they will see. The words that we say, the attitudes we choose, and our actions represent Christ. No matter what you do, you will always leave an impression on others – for good or

bad. The world is watching! The world needs to see “Christ in you” (Colossians 1:27) for He is their only hope for forgiveness and heaven. Without Christ, we are lost in our sins only to face an eternity in the lake of fire.

Here’s the Question:

Can people outside the church recognize Christ in you?

1. We Are the _____ of the Earth, v. 13a

Salt was a valuable commodity in the day of Christ. In fact, Roman soldiers were paid in salt. Because salt had value in that society, He says we are the salt of the earth.

Salt has three distinct properties.

A. Salt _____ from corruption

Someone said, “We protect society from the full sway of evil that would otherwise be unleashed on the world.” Where Christianity flourishes, so does respect, kindness, and civility.

B. Salt brings _____ (or seasoning) to food.

C. Salt irritates and _____ a wound.

Jesus is teaching us that we are NOT going to fit in! He basically says, “Don’t waste your time and energy trying to be like everyone else. I’ve made you different than those of this world!” Many of us as teenagers and young adults really struggled with trying to be accepted by others. Jesus says we are supposed to be different.

We are supposed to be salty! The way we live brings a new taste, a new flavor to the table. We are also supposed to be a little irritating! We are supposed to be living in such a way that we stand out in stark contrast to those around us.

When we live worldly, we lose our saltiness. When we lose our saltiness, we lose our power and we lose our effectiveness, v. 13b.

2. We Are the _____ of the World, v. 14a, 15

{Jesus Christ is} the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. JOHN 1:9

It is a fact that God’s light (truth) is in us. Jesus says that we are responsible for the way the light shines through us.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. MATTHEW 5:16

A good life with good works does not make you holy. But a good life with good works empowered by the Holy Spirit allows others to identify God's holiness in us. So, if there are no good works and no moral excellence then God is not being seen!

Are you _____ in the darkness in your home, your neighborhood, your office, your school? Or are you simply extending the darkness?

3. We Are a _____ Set on a Hill, v. 14b

The geography around the Sea of Galilee helps us to understand exactly what Jesus is saying. The 13 mile long Sea of Galilee is the lowest fresh water lake on earth and is surrounded by mountains. Any of the towns built on top of mountains, they are not just easily seen, but they are staring at you when you look up.

Jesus points with His finger at the city like Hippos and says, "You are like that city on that hill over there." In our area, Jesus would say, "You are the big digital billboard at Oaks. You can't hide. Oh, you can try and hide your Christianity from others, but He refuses to hide you.

- You are God's billboard.
- You are His marketing plan.
- You are His bumper sticker.
- You are His T-shirt logo.
- You are His commercial.

It's time we all take what God has given to us and shine His light. When was the last time you posted something of your faith on Instagram, twitter, Facebook, YouTube? It's time to open up your accounts and like and share Valley Forge Baptist Facebook and the Academy (vfba.org) and the preschool (caringkidspreschool.org). If you love your church, then share it; "like" it, write a 5 star review, and share upcoming events like VBS. How?

Go to the church Facebook page www.facebook.com/thecaringchurch/
Click on "Over the Moat" VBS ad.
Click Share (either invite friends or Share in News Feed).
Click Post.

God is calling us to Himself. We are a church. We are the family of God. We join together to be a part of a community of believers with new life, a new identity, and a new set of values to live by. The reputation of the Lord is at stake – we are Christians – we bear His name; we carry His cross. Our church family is to be a place of love, joy, peace, but most of all, the place where people find Jesus as their Savior.

What To Do:

1. _____ CHRIST

You cannot share what you do not have.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.
JOHN 6:47

Realize that your sin has separated you from God and only because of Jesus' death and resurrection can you receive forgiveness of your sins.

2. _____ CHRIST-LIKE

Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.
1 CORINTHIANS 11:1

Are your words Christ-like? Are your actions Christ-like? Are your attitudes Christ-like? When people look at your life, do they think “Yes, he or she acts the way Jesus would act?”

3. _____ CHRIST

Pass out tracts; Follow up Visitation; Jerusalem Project (new move in visits) – Contact Pastor Joyner and Kathy Sachs – ksachs@vfbt.org); Outreach events – community days; post flyers and tracts on public bulletin boards; share your testimony, etc.

Internet Search – “One Verse Evangelism – Navigators”

You are salt, light, and a city on a hill. When we choose to love one another, we begin to touch people in our community. Saying, “I love my church” isn’t just about us; it’s about everyone outside these walls as well – _____ them for Jesus Christ.