

## BE AN INFLUENCER FOR GOD

APRIL 25, 2021

## WORSHIP

Your Grace is  
Enough, See the  
Light, Christ be  
Magnified

## WELCOME

Who was the person  
who influenced you  
the most in your  
choice of career,  
course in college, or  
who you got married  
to?

## WORD

## MATTHEW 5:13-16

<sup>13</sup> “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. <sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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.

God has placed us exactly where He wants us to be in this point of history of our world. May we never look back with regret and wish that we had exerted our influence differently to what is going on around us today. For God has entrusted to us a certain level of influence. Influence is the power to affect how someone develops, acts, or thinks. We’re going to look at how God, just like He has entrusted to us our treasure, talents, time, and the truth, has also entrusted to us our influence. We are to be an INFLUENCER for the Lord.

Jesus tells us in **Matthew 5** known as the Sermon on the Mount how we are to be as Christians, then He dives into how we are to be an influence in this world. Jesus tells us that we are the salt of the earth (**v.13**) and the light of the world (**v.14**). We need to recognize the influence that God has entrusted to us.

When you and I don’t steward our influence, we can negatively impact an entire nation just like in **Numbers 13** and **14**. An entire nation was negatively influenced by ten spies. As a result, they wandered in the desert for 40 years until that generation was wiped out and a new generation arose. Another example was Rehoboam (**2 Chronicles 10:6-8**) where he sought counsel from the elders but did not listen. Instead, he was influenced by the people that he had grown up with. The nation of Israel split and they experienced great and painful consequences. When we listen to the wrong influence, we can jeopardize our future.

## RECOGNIZE YOUR INFLUENCE

**Inner Circle** - This would be your family, your closest friends, your spiritual family.

**Intermediate Circle** - This would be the people that you work with, people that you do transactions with, your classmates, people who you share life with through your hobbies. People you have a good relationship with.

**Outer circle** – This is made up of acquaintances or social media friends.

Who are these people that God has entrusted you to influence? Whether we know it or not, every time we act or say something, we are either pointing people towards Jesus Christ or to the world.

## YOU ARE LIGHT

Jesus says that we are the light of the world (**v.14**). You are so valuable because our world is in darkness and you have a purpose to shine in it. Light is seen even from a far distance and the smallest light can dispel the greatest darkness. However, we have a choice. It is possible for somebody to actually put the light under a basket (**v.15**). As a follower of Jesus, you aren’t shining your own light; be an influencer for the Lord, not an influencer for yourself. Jesus tells us in **John 8:12** that He is the Light of the world. Our world is in darkness and without Jesus we too will walk in darkness, stumbling and tripping because we cannot see. To follow Jesus is to prayerfully ask “What would Jesus do or say in this situation?”. You will find the answer to that question in Scripture, and then to do it in His power. As we obey Jesus, He will be the light of our life, enabling us to see.

There was a time in the history of Israel when a plot was planned to annihilate them as a nation. God has placed Esther as queen during that time (**Esther 4:14-16**). Esther was confronted with a decision to be a light requiring much courage. Esther requested that prayer and fasting be done. To be an influencer for the Lord,

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you always have to cover it in prayer because we're influencing people for the Lord. Those prayers gave Esther the strength to make that decision to be a light to her people and their nation was spared. God delivered Israel through Queen Esther's intervention to avert disaster for the Jews. When we act like light, we point people to Christ, our Great Deliverer.

## YOU ARE SALT

Don't just focus your time and energy on your outer circle of influence. The greatest impact happens in your inner and intermediate circles. That's where salt comes in. Light is something you see at a distance. Salt impacts when it comes into contact with the object. You have a direct impact in their life because they see you up close. They experience the joy, peace, faith, and the power of the Holy Spirit in your life. Salt preserves; it imparts flavor. When your life is salty, a fragrant aroma, when you're full of grace, truth, and humility, it attracts people just like salt makes people thirsty. Your "saltiness" makes people thirsty for the Lord. God has given you exactly the influence you have so that you can exercise it for His purpose. How? Have meaningful conversations (**Colossians 4:6**)! The Bible tells us our speech should be seasoned with salt. We should be able to say what a person needs to hear during that time. To know what, how and when to say something is a "God thing". So, you need to be in prayer; you need to be filled by the Holy Spirit to be salt in the world.

Never underestimate where God has placed you! Just like the girl in **2 Kings 5:1-3** who was taken as a captive and slave in a foreign land. She used whatever influence she had to point her master to someone that could heal him (**2 Kings 5:15-17**). God used her to heal Naaman physically and spiritually.

A word of warning in **Matthew 5:13**. Salt is an amazing compound but impurities can make it tasteless and useless. So don't let any impurity enter into your life, otherwise you lose your ability to influence people towards Christ.

## How to Influence People for the Lord?

Pray  
Rely on the holy spirit  
Enter into their world  
Model authentic Christlikeness  
Continue to journey with them  
Don't rush

## Who is influencing you?

What are you watching, reading, listening to?  
Where are you spending your time?  
Who are the people you are "following"?  
Who is in your inner circle?

We don't have it within ourselves to be salt and light no matter how good we are as persons. But Jesus entered into our world. He entered as a human being. The gospel is that He paid for the penalty of our sins, so that He could be in the center of our lives if we allow Him (**John 3:16**). Maybe our inner circle of relationships is broken or you've blown it with your intermediate circle. You haven't been a salt and light. You can change course by giving your life to Jesus. If you humble yourself, admit your need to be forgiven of your sins, you can become a new creation because of Jesus. Surrender your life to Him and become an influencer to point others to our Savior today.

DISCUSSION  
QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

## 1. Self-Check.

Do you recognize your spheres of influence? Who are the people in your inner, intermediate, and outer circles?

## 2. Setting It Right

How are you influencing them? Are you pointing them towards Christ or the world?

## 3. Living It Out

What do you need to do differently as a result of this Sunday's message? How will you apply it in your life this week?

## WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE  
IN ACTION

Pray to recognize the opportunities to influence your spheres of influence: inner, intermediate, and outer circles to the Lord Jesus Christ. Be intentional about influencing other people through your words and actions. Share Jesus to people at a distance (outer circle, i.e., online space, social media) and to people you come in contact with (family, house or roommates, co-workers).

WEEKLY  
PRAYER POINTS

## I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

## II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation
- Wisdom and timely, effective response to the pandemic

## III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

## IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

## V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends



**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 5:16**