

Matthew 5:13-16

Distinction

Announce the title

Christ makes the difference in someone's life

Dr. Bill Frist was a senator from Tennessee while I was living in Memphis. He was also the leader of the US Senate when George W Bush was President. Dr. Frist had performed 150 heart transplants as a thoracic surgeon. At the National Prayer breakfast one year, Dr. Frist was the speaker. He described the moment when a new heart has been grafted into a new body and all the surgical team can do is wait in hopes that it will begin to beat. He called that moment a mystery as it transitioned from the physical to the spiritual.

Heart transplants are a mystery in the medical world. It goes way beyond what medicine can explain or understand. It is more than just a physical pump. It does circulate 5000 quarts of blood through 60000 miles of blood vessels day in and day out. The heart has a mind of its own. Studies suggest that the heart secretes brain like hormones and has cellular memory that is not just physical. It is called metaphysical. Charles Siebert wrote a book A Man After His Own Heart. They not only recieved a new heart but new sensory responses, cravings and habits.

There is a foundational, hallmark principle of Scripture is that when you give your life to Christ then you become a new creation in Christ. Jesus comes to live inside of you.

There is a difference between the people of God and the people of the world

Read the Scripture

1. The Distinction is meaningful

expression of grace

You are not who you once were
You are not like the world anymore

there is a huge difference

You are in the Kingdom of Heaven
 others will be cast into Hell
You are on the narrow way that leads to life
 others on the broad way that leads to destruction
You will inherit the earth
 others will be cast into outer darkness
You will see God
 others will hear depart from me for I never knew you

You will be called sons of God
 others will be sons of their father the Devil
You will be comforted
 others will be tormented
You will be filled with light
 others will be filled with darkness
You are a good tree and a good tree bears good fruit
 others are a bad tree and a bad tree bears bear fruit
You are the wise man who builds his house on the rock and when the tsunami flood comes nto
your life the storm will beat against the house but it will stand
 others are the foolish man who builds his house upon the sand and when the tsunami
floods come and beat aganst the house then the house falls and great is the fall

You are meak
 others are unrestrained
You are mericful
 others are brutal
You pure in heart
You are a peacemaker
You mourn
You are poor in spirit

For that you re noticed and you are persecuted

Paul would say that you have passed from death to life; dfrom darkness to light, from Satan to
God, from a lie to the truth,

you were lost but now you are found
you were of your father the Devil and now you are a child of God
you were a citizen of this world which s passing away bt now you are a citizen of the new heave
sand the new earth and we will live in the New Jerusalem

Paul would speak of this distinction

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20: “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit
who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought
at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.””**

2. The Distinction is beautiful

goodness - the epitome of human goodness occurs when the child of God is salt and light

Salt attracts attention
People will want to dilute its flavor

The world will attack its distinctiveness

you will be persecuted

You promote

Salt disinfects

Salt remove impurities

Salt cleanses the wounds

You cleanse the wounds of this world

the world loves sin and you do not

the world believes that sin is good but you do not

You purify the social

Salt and light

Salt effects are preventative or negative:

Salt purifies- sore in the mouth can be purified with salt water - certain skin conditions need a salt water bath

Salt preserves - salt cured meat

Salt penetrates - you can taste the salt

*you are not the sugar of the world - sugar makes everything more palatable, easier to swallow, taste better - sugar does not heal at all - in fact sugar is one of the greatest curses in America - diabetes is a plague that is

-why are Christians so focused on being sweet

*You are not the bitter herb of the world - some blowhole hypocrite who is not poor in spirit, not merciful, hungry not meek not a peacemaker

somehow we have called that someone who is salt

-now we have a generation who have reacted against it

You are to be salty and shiny

Black history month - we must never forget the depth and darkness of the human atrocities perpetrated against an entire race of people on our own soil. We must also never forget the depth of courage, love and human goodness it took for our fellow brothers and sister in Christ, a movement led by Christians to free the slaves and to free them from segregation, hate, prejudice, and bigotry.

Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. was the visible leader of a movement for equality and he did it out of His Christian belief system. His themes most often came from the words of our Lord Jesus in the sermon on the Mount.

Light effects are proactive and positive

Light attracts and reveals

A lighthouse - attracts the gaze of those searching

A lighthouse also reveals where the rocks lie and the path to a safe homecoming

Light exposes and explains

Light nourishes and heals

Christians are called to bring negative and positive to the consciousness of the friends of God

The atom bomb - Enrico Fermi unleashed the power of the atom on Dec. 2, 1942. The technical term is nuclear fission. The full impact of the discovery was felt on August 6, 1945 when the Enola Gay dropped the world's first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan.

42 seconds for the bomb to drop 31000 feet, 1900 feet above the ground a barometric switch triggered the subatomic chain reaction. In just a few millioneth of a seconds, that chan reaction went through 80 generations of doubling. The bomb reached a temperature of several million degeed celcius, the temperture of the core of the sun. It exploded at 6:16:02 local time and four square miles of the city was instantly and completely devastated. Buildings were leveled and hilltops scortched six miles away. And the bomb produced so much energy that the glare from the blast would have been visable from Jupiter, roughly 390 million miles away. That is incredible how much power is released by separating the atom.

Incredibly, that amount of energy was released by what was in essence the by product of a subatomic reaction that used only 1% of the 2 pounds of uranium. 1/3 of one ounce of uranium was translated into a release of energy 2000 more times more powerful than that of any bomb in history.

When God seaprates you from the dominion of the law and the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of you there is such power release.

Your distinction is such a release of power on this world

3. The Distinction is purposeful

Experience of His glory

need to make sure that you do not hinder the salty or the shine

see your good works and glorify God

*God made you distinctive so you could be noticed

God wants you to stand out by your life

-it takes effort to stay hidden - Christians spend energy on being hidden because they do not want to be persecuted or noticed, do not want to be the topic of conversation

sing this little light of mine