

Monday Quotes



Grain

We are the salt of the earth, mind you, not the sugar. Our ministry is to truly cleanse and not just to change the taste. –Vance Havner

Submitted by Leanne Puglielli, Madison, WI

Field

¹³“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. ¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.

Matthew 5:13-18

Thoughts by Leanne Puglielli, PhD, Madison, WI

Salt. It is not just a seasoning. It is a powerful antiseptic - It's what I gargle with when I have a sore throat or rub into a wound that I don't want to fester. Salt was the food preservative in the days before refrigeration and still allows me to store my Virginia Country Ham on a shelf. A certain amount of salt is critical to balancing the electrolytes in our bodies that keep us healthy.

Salt's value comes in its application on other things. Contrary to our popularly held view of “salt of the earth” people as solid, hard-working, minding their own business, taking care of their family people, Jesus is talking about lives that make a difference for others in the world. Just as salt is an element that is only useful when it is applied to other things, followers of Jesus are called to exist for others. Sometimes we are called to be an antiseptic – standing up and speaking out for what is right. Other times we are called to be a preservative – working tirelessly to preserve our mandate to Love God and Love Our Neighbors as ourselves. Working for balance – economic justice, environmental justice – may be the most difficult work we are called to do.

We are not only called to be salt, we are called to be light - a tough concept for many of us who were raised in the value of anonymous action. Jesus makes it clear that we are not to hide our actions. We are reflectors. We stand in the light of the unconditional love of God. We become the light that enables people to see the justice way of the Kingdom. We reflect that light back to God who enables our lives to make a difference for others. Happy Monday!

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Many Blessings upon you,

Leanne Puglielli