

Becoming like Jesus in influence (Based on Chapter 7 of *Costly Grace*)

The Big Idea

Our influence and visibility is a result of our connection to Jesus and not because of what we do or who we are.

Biblical Foundation

You are like salt for the whole human race. ... You are like light for the whole world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. ... In the same way your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven.
Matthew 5:13-16 (NIV)

Salt

Jesus says we are like salt. He doesn't say we have the potential to become like salt (to have influence). Our connection to Jesus immediately gives us influence. Will we believe Jesus when he says our connection to him carries influence or will we keep doing things that we think will make us influential?

We are responsible for using the influence Jesus gives to us: What are some of the things we should do with our influence? What are some things we should never do with our influence? What one thing can you do this week?

By keeping close to Jesus, I can be confident that no matter what circumstances I am in he will tell me what to do or say.

Light

Jesus, who is the light of the world, re-creates us into the light of the world. We are light, not because of anything of ourselves, but because we are in a supernatural union with the light of the world. Take a look at John 8:12 and discuss how it describes our relationship to the light.

Jesus said others will see our good works and glorify God as a result. If our virtue created the light that shines into the darkness then we would deserve the glory, not God.

The penetrating power of Christ alone (salt and light penetrate) is able to transform others. If we believe that, why do we try to force people to behave the way we want them to behave? (We're not talking about getting your kids to clean up their room!)

Only God can measure the significance of my influence and visibility. Why is that true? If that is true, what should motivate my use of influence?