

## Read Matthew 5:13-17

**There are two essential questions in life: who am I? What am I do with my life?**

Jesus says: You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world. Notice he doesn't say: go do this or that, and you might become salt and light. No. He says clearly: you are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world. You are the beloved of God. This is who you.

**Jesus says simply be who you are.** This is imperative: be salt for a tasteless world, preserve what is good in it, bring forth its rich flavors. He says to his followers: live your lives as you already are, because when you do you will be what the earth needs most to survive. Be the light of the world that has so many places that are shrouded in darkness without light. Go to those dark places, do not fear them or banish them. Go to the dark places and let your life shine there, bringing light and life where it is needed most.

***What if all the doing consisted in being who you are and being that person fully right now? Imagine if the company of Jesus' followers realized our purpose right now is simply being the salt of the earth? All that Jesus asks of us is to be in those places that have lost all taste and are in danger of losing life itself. He asks you to be light wherever the light has grown dim or the darkness threatens to take it all away. You*** don't have to go far to be the light of the world or salt of the earth. In fact, you don't have to go anywhere other than where you are. You ARE the beloved. You ARE salt of the earth. You ARE the light of the world. When the followers Jesus live from our essential blessing, people are drawn to the God at the center.

To his followers - the Church - he says: If you are not being who you are, then what's the point? It's a waste of time.

***Be who you are. Salt of the earth. Light of the World.***

**Epiphany 5 - February 5 2017**